E. Hae
3
Roureville

Roureville

VOL.3 Ch.7

ROUREVILLE #12
HEARTBEAT

IS THERE A WAY TO MEASURE HOW MUCH
A CERTAIN PERSON MEANS TO ME?

.....

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SHIT
SLIDE
THE DAY AFTER OUR ARGUMENT, CLEO LEFT ROUKEVILLE WITH ERIC.
OKAY! AFTER I DROP CLEO BACK AT HER PLACE, I'LL BE BACK...

YOU'RE COMING BACK?
SMOOCH
WHAT FOR?
IT'LL TAKE SOME TIME, BUT I'LL BE HERE FOR SURE
SMOOCH
SO WAIT FOR ME DARLING!
DUH

WAHH!
EEEP!

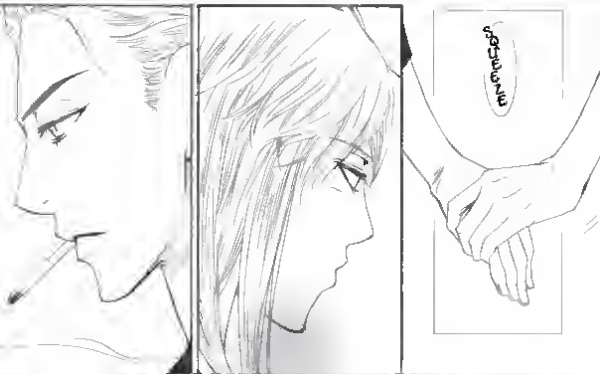
Bwah
ah!
PZZZP
PZZZP
PZZZP
EVAN...
YOU...

ERIC, I'D LIKE TO GO NOW
OKAY, WE'LL PICK UP WHERE I LEFT OFF WHEN I GET BACK
CLEO...
IF YOU WERE GOING TO DITCH ME LIKE THIS, YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE HELD MY HAND IN THE FIRST PLACE!
BOB
WHAT? WE'RE ALREADY A FAMILY?
THAT'S NOT WHAT I WANTED TO HEAR!

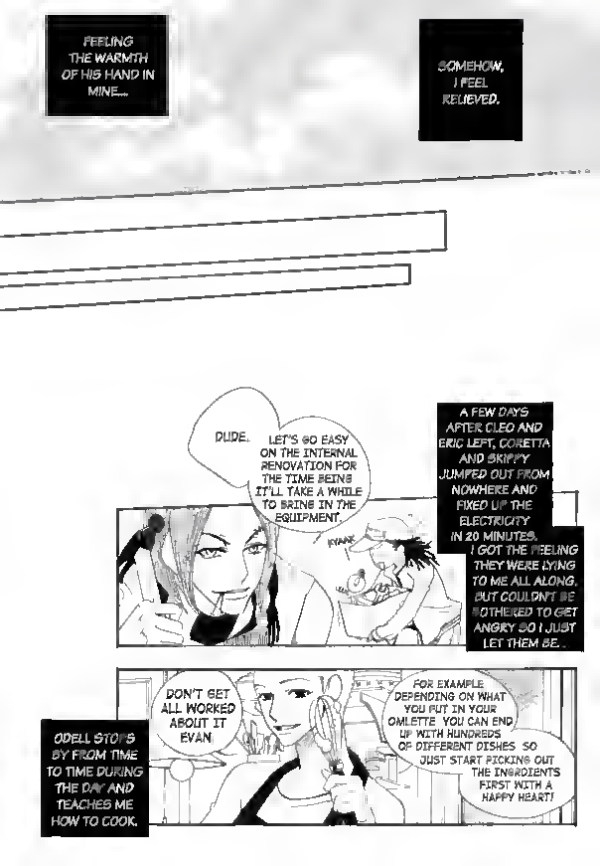
VROOM
ALRIGHT, BYE!
EVAN!
THIS ISN'T LIKE YOU AT ALL.
ERIC'S ALWAYS BEEN WEIRD. SO I'M NOT CONCERNED ABOUT HIM. BUT WHAT'S WITH YOU?
YOU'RE FOLLOWING THAT JAYCE GUY AROUND WHEREVER HE GOES...

YOU NEVER ACTED LIKE THIS BEFORE!
#MPPH
YOU CAN BARELY COOK FOR YOURSELF, BUT YOU'RE WHIPPING OUT DISHES FOR HIM?
NOPE!
YOU'RE WRONG IT'S BECAUSE I HAVE TO EAT TOO
IF IT WAS THE OLD YOU, YOU WOULDN'T BE STUCK IN A REDNECK TOWN LIKE THIS TO BEGIN WITH!
SIGH
IT DOESN'T MATTE...
YOU LOOKED AT ME BEFORE, ALTHOUGH NOT THE WAY A MAN LOOKS AT HIS LOVER... C..N'T YOU JUST...?
YOU'RE ALREADY FAMILY
WE DON'T HAVE TO BE BOUND TO EACH OTHER THROUGH MARRIAGE OR AS LOVERS I'LL ALWAYS BE AT YOUR SIDE
THAT
THAT'S NOT WHAT I WANT...
I'M NOT ABANDONING YOU CLEO

BECAUSE I'LL ALWAYS BE HERE.
SNIFF
I CAN HEAR CLEO CRYING TURNING HER BACK TO ME WITH HER SWOLLEN EYES...
TELLING HERSELF THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS SOMEONE SHE CAN RELY ON THAT SHE'LL NEVER TRUST ANYBODY EVER AGAIN
HER TINY LITTLE BACK... AS IF SHE HAD TURNED INTO A SIX-YEAR-OLD AGAIN...


ENTWINE

PALMS THAT HAVE GOTTEN ROUGH THROUGH GARDENING.
DO I LOOK THAT PATHETIC? ENOUGH TO NEED YOUR SYMPATHY?
I'D BE LYING IF I SAID I FEEL FINE AFTER PUSHING CLEO AWAY LIKE THAT...


FEELING THE WARMTH OF HIS HAND IN MINE...
SOMEHOW, I FEEL RELIEVED.
A FEW DAYS AFTER CLEO AND ERIC LEFT, CORETTA AND SKIPPY JUMPED OUT FROM NOWHERE AND FIXED UP THE ELECTRICITY IN 20 MINUTES.
I GOT THE FEELING THEY WERE LYING TO ME ALL ALONG, BUT COULDN'T BE BOTHERED TO GET ANGRY SO I JUST LET THEM BE.
DUDE.
LET'S GO EASY ON THE INTERNAL RENOVATION FOR THE TIME BEING IT'LL TAKE A WHILE TO BRING IN THE EQUIPMENT.
EVAN
ODELL STOPS BY FROM TIME TO TIME DURING THE DAY AND TEACHES ME HOW TO COOK.
DON'T GET ALL WORKED ABOUT IT EVAN
FOR EXAMPLE DEPENDING ON WHAT YOU PUT IN YOUR OMLETTE YOU CAN END UP WITH HUNDREDS OF DIFFERENT DISHES SO JUST START PICKING OUT THE INGREDIENTS FIRST WITH A HAPPY HEART!

NO NOISE, NO BLINDING LIGHTS LIKE THE CITY. JUST SERENE SILENCE.
DAY AFTER DAY OF PEACEFUL EXISTENCE WITHOUT ANY OF THE USUAL NIGHTMARES.
CLICK
WISH EVERY DAY WAS LIKE THIS
SLIDE
YOU'RE BACK?

AFTER CLEO AND ERIC LEFT, JAYCE BECAME MORE AND MORE RESERVED.
.....
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
SLIDE
WHAT THE HELL IS HE STARING AT?
STA-RE
SWISH

JAYCE?
YEAH?
NOTHING
AM I SEEING THINGS?
THUMP
SPLASH

THUD
THUD

CLUNK

HU
HU
HUH
HAPPY HEART MY ASS STUPID ODELL.

WHAT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A HAM AND BROCCOLI OMLETTE

SIGH
MAYBE THE HEAT WAS TOO HIGH...
GUESS I NEED MORE PRIVATE LESSONS FROM DOC!...
JAYCE -
WHO CARES?
HEY! FOOD'S READY!
JAYCE EATS ANYTHING WITHOUT SAYING A WORD.

SHOWER OF LIGHT...
IS HE INVISIBLE NOW?

EVAN?
HE'S FINE THOUGH...
LET'S GO EAT.
WHAT'S GOING ON WITH MY HEART?
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP

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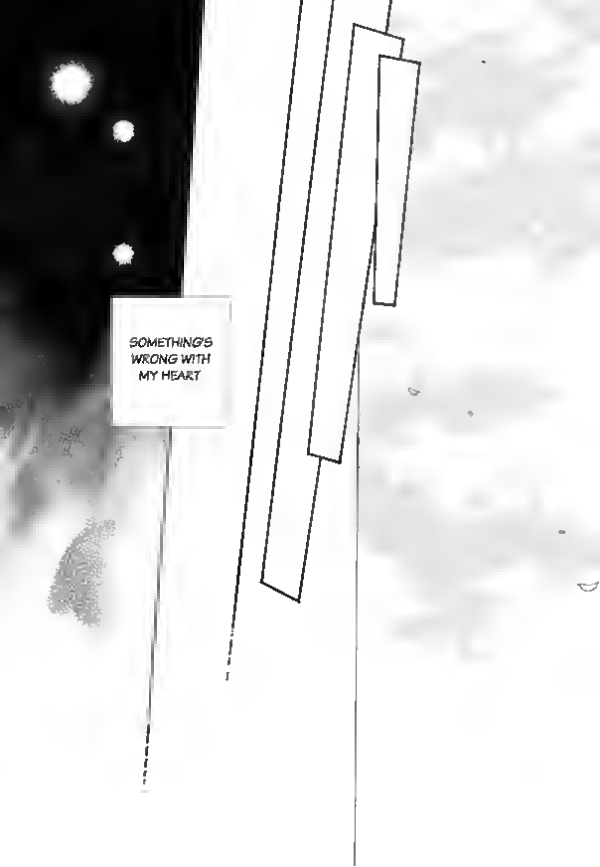
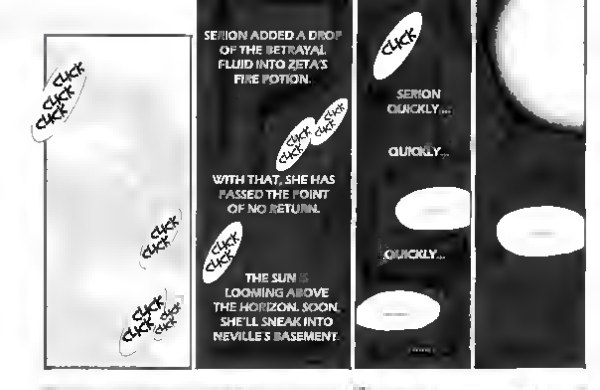

SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH MY HEART

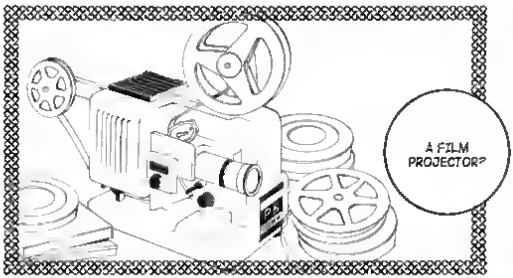

CLICK CLICK CLICK
SERION ADDED A DROP OF THE BETRAYAL FLUID INTO ZETA'S FIRE POTION.
CLICK CLICK CLICK
WITH THAT, SHE HAS PASSED THE POINT OF NO RETURN.
CLICK CLICK
THE SUN IS LOOMING ABOVE THE HORIZON. SOON, SHE'LL SNEAK INTO NEVILLE'S BASEMENT.
CLICK CLICK CLICK
CLICK
SERION QUICKLY...
QUICKLY...
QUICKLY...

ZERO.TXT
File Edit Options
SERION ADD
BETRAYAL F
FIRE POTION
WITH THAT,
THE POINT O
SERION, ADD
BETRAYAL FL
FIRE POTION
WITH THAT,
THE NT O
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
BLINK
RAH
THIS WRITER'S BLOCK ISN'T GOING TO GO AWAY ANY TIME SOON.

IT'S THE FRESH FRESH VITALITY JUICE FOR THIS MONTH JAYCE YOU'VE BEEN TAKING IT EVERYDAY, RIGHT?
HE HEH
YOU'RE LOOKING BETTER AND BETTER JAYCE.
IF YOU WANT YOUR HEALTH BACK YOU MUST TAKE THEM NO MATTER WHAT BOT THAT?
LOOKS LIKE THE JUICE IS WORKING, EH MJ?
MR. JOHNSON, THE CORN FARMER?
FRESH FRESH WHAT JUICE?
UMPH
LOOKS HEAVY
PPT
WANT SOME HELP?
SLIDE
NO, IT'S ALL

UH OH!
GRAB
CHK
THANKS EVAN...
SURE

I ONLY HELD HIM WITH MY FINGER TIPS...


A FILM PROJECTOR?

OHHHH
NEATO-!
SO MANY FILMS
FOUND IT IN THE ATTIC
CAN'T BELIVE THIS HOUSE HAS A PROJECTOR BUT NO TV
OR: IS IT BECAUSE THERE IS NO TVC HERE?
OH!
I WANNA SEE THIS AGAIN
WHOOPIE GOLDBERG WAS AWESOME IN THIS FILM
GHOST
THAT LAME MOVIE I REFUED TO WATCH AS A KID...

YOUR TASTE IS MORE OUTDATED THAN I THOUGHT.
TERRR
TEER
THEREFORE, THEY'RE NOW WATCHING "GHOST"
HER
BUT SOMETHING ABOUT THIS MOVIE CREEPS THE HELL OUT OF ME.
IT'S JUST A MOVIE WITH A BIT OF COMEDY AND PATHOS MIXED TOGETHER

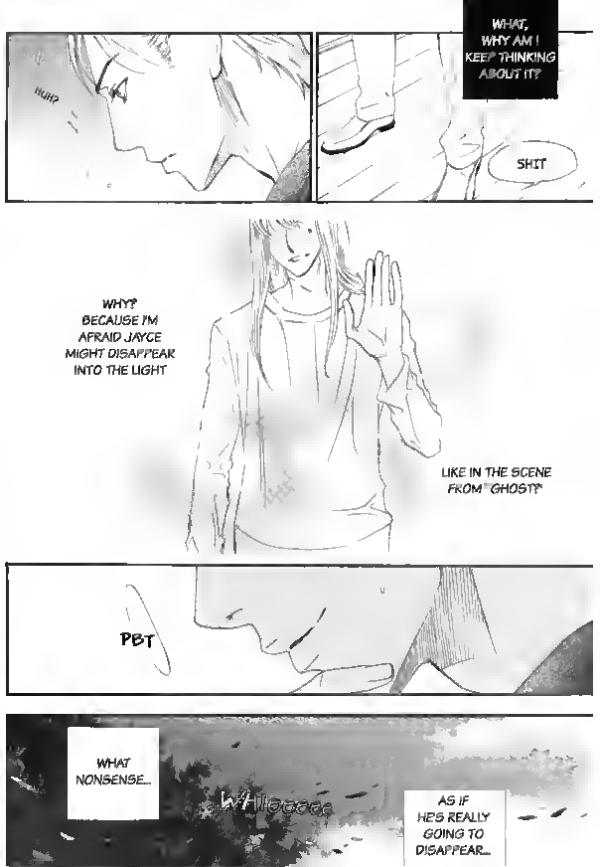
DON'T SEE ANYTHING REALLY WRONG WITH IT EITHER...
TAP
TAP
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO WANTED TO SEE THE MOVIE IN THE FIRST PLACE.
AND YOU'RE GOING TO LEAVE ME WATCHING THIS EERIE PIECE OF WORK ALL BY MYSELF?

EERIE...
WHY IS IT EERIE?
WHAT ABOUT IT...?

CRASH
SLASH
NOT AGAIN
HAH
THIS HAS BEEN GOING ON FOR A FEW DAYS NOW... I CAN'T SEEM TO HOLD ON TO ANYTHING.
I'VE DROPPED DISHES...
TRIPPED DOWN THE STAIRS...
EVEN DROPPING THE PEN I'M HOLDING HAS BECOME THE NORM.
CAN'T WRITE,
AND I'VE ALSO BEEN HAVING NIGHTMARES AGAIN.
IN OTHER WORDS, MY CONDITION'S GONE DOWN TO SHIT.
I FREQUENTLY FIND MYSELF STARING AT THE WALL FOR NO REASON...
PUFF
PUFF
PUFF
DID JAYCE GIVE ME HIS IDIOT VIRUS?

I CAN'T CONCENTRATE AT ALL...
HAH

A CHANGE IS GONNA COME
WHISTLE
HUH?
AGAIN... I'VE HAD THIS IMAGE IN MY HEAD FOR DAYS NOW
THAT TIME WHEN JAYCE WAS STANDING IN THE FLOOD OF LIGHT AS IF HE WAS ABOUT TO DISAPPEAR INTO IT. LOOKED AS IF HE WAS ABOUT TO TURN INVISIBLE AND DISAPPEAR INTO THIN AIR.
SEEMS LIKE IT'S GONNA RAIN SOON...


HUH?
WHAT, WHY AM I KEEP THINKING ABOUT IT?
SHIT
WHY? BECAUSE I'M AFRAID JAYCE MIGHT DISAPPEAR INTO THE LIGHT
LIKE IN THE SCENE FROM "GHOST"?
PBT
WHAT NONSENSE...
Whoooo
AS IF HE'S REALLY GOING TO DISAPPEAR...

HE ISN'T SOME SORT OF A SPIRIT EITHER. HE SAID SO HIMSELF.
JAYCE ISN'T A GHOST.
IF HE WAS, I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO TOUCH HIM.
THEN WHY IS HE SLOWLY TURNING INVISIBLE?
WHAT'S THAT ALL ABOUT?
HE'LL TURN MORE AND MORE TRANSPARENT AND THEN DISAPPEAR ALTOGETHER.
HE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT'S CAUSING HIS CONDITION (AND SINCE HE DOESN'T KNOW).
IT'S POSSIBLE THAT HE'LL GET MORE AND MORE TRANSPARENT
AND ONE DAY HE WILL VANISH COMPLETELY.
WITHOUT KNOWING WHY...
WHO GIVES A DAMN?
WHY SHOULD I CARE WHETHER OR NOT HE GOES TO HEAVEN O HELL...
.....
SLAM

YES... MAYBE HE CAN REALLY DISAPPEAR...
YOU NEVER KNOW IF IT'S REALLY GOING TO HAPPEN OR NOT...
DOES THAT MEAN I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO SEE HIM AGAIN?
DISAPPEAR?
JAYCE WILL DISAPPEAR?
HE'LL GET MORE AND MORE TRANSPARENT AND THEN ONE DAY DISAPPEAR, FOR JUST LIKE THAT.
JAYCE DISAPPEARS.
DISAPPEARS
HIS EXISTENCE GOES COMPLETELY NIL...
I WON'T BE ABLE TO TOUCH HIM ANYMORE...
WHY AM I WORRYING ABOUT THIS?
BRRR
DISAPPEA
HE'LL GO BACK TO ME
WHEN I WASN'T
FEEL HI
JAY
TO

JAYCE IS GOING
TO VANISH?

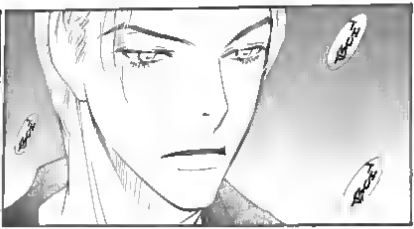
ZING

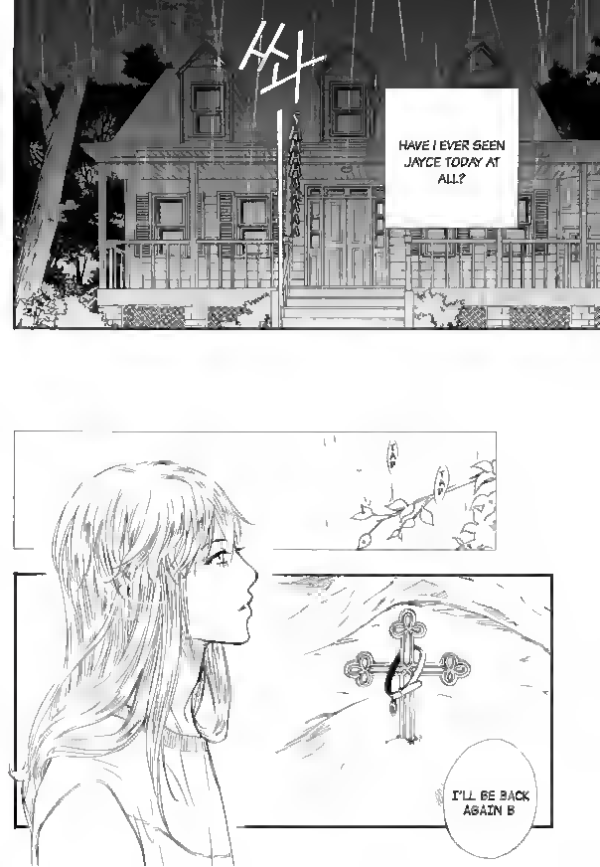
NO...
HAH

JAYCE?
WHERE IS HE?
JAYCE?

WHERE DID HE GO? HE'S NOT IN THE BACKYARD
THE BACKYARD... LOOKS MORE SINISTER THAN USUAL TODAY...

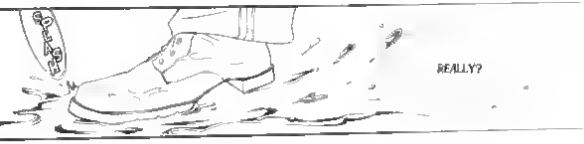
FALL

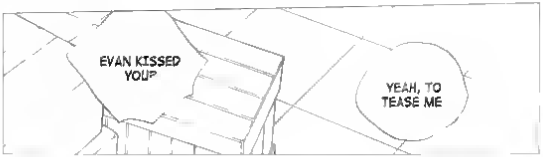



쏴아
HAVE I EVER SEEN JAYCE TODAY AT ALL?
I'LL BE BACK AGAIN B

SHAAAAAAA

SIGH
IT'S GETTING WORSE...
EVEN IF I RUN, I'LL BE SOAKED BEFORE I GET HOME.


SPLASH
REALLY?


EVAN KISSED YOU?
YEAH, TO TEASE ME

BUT...
BUT WHAT?
YOU CAN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT IT?
BLUSH
I CAN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT IT AND I KEEP LOOKING AT HIS DIRECTION.
SO, AS SOON AS I SAID MEN WILL ACTUALLY BE BETTER FOR YOU, YOU'RE SPILLING THE BEANS ON THIS ONE, HUH?
WU WU WU WU
WU WU WU WU
BUT I DON'T LIKE THE FACT THAT YOUR LOVE INTEREST HAPPENS TO BE EVAN PRYCE.
HE TELLS SOMEONE A LOSER IN HIS FACE.
THAT GUYS' A LITTLE TWISTED...
EVAN LOOKS COLD AND STRONG AS STEEL, BUT SOMETIMES HE HAS THAT SAD LOOK ON HIS FACE...
MAYBE THAT'S WHY HE REMINDS ME OF B
HE HAD THE SAME EXPRESSION IN HIS EYES TOO

IS THAT WHY I AM DRAWN TO EVAN?
SEEMS LIKE HE NEEDS SOMEONE BY HIS SIDE...
SHAAAAAA...
BEEE
SHAAA
SHAAA
SHAAA

SWISH
SWISH
SWISH

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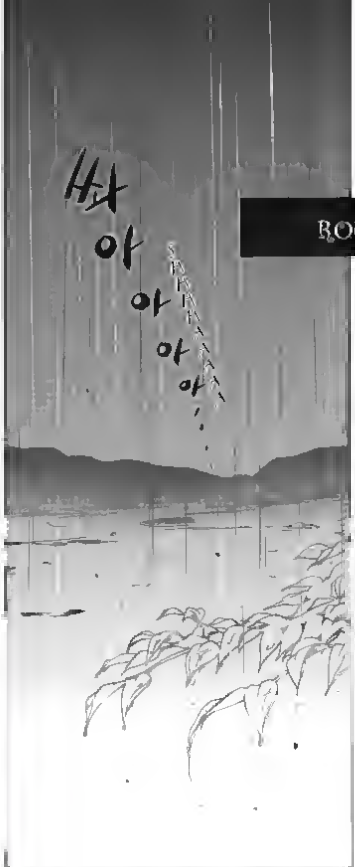
DRIP
KRRRRRRRRRR
EVAN?

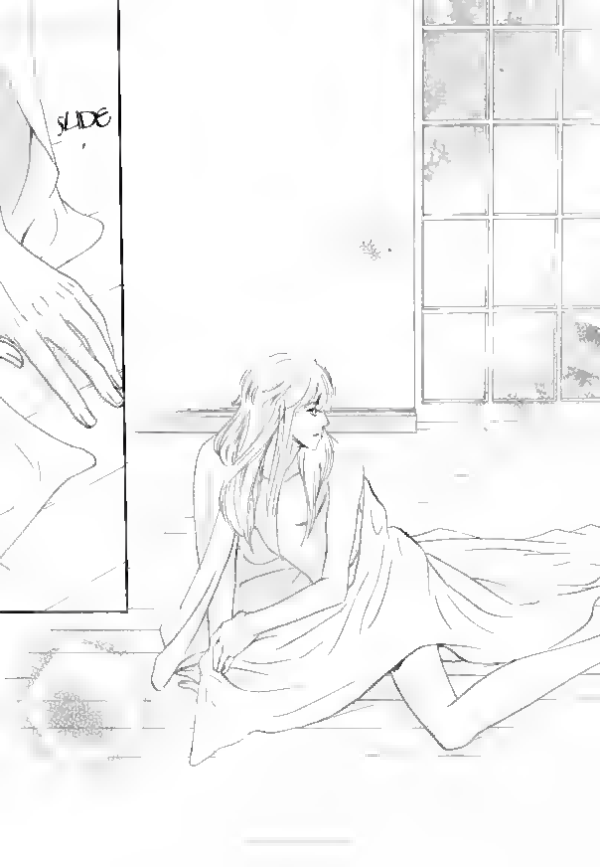
KRRRRRRRR
콰르르릉...
FLASH

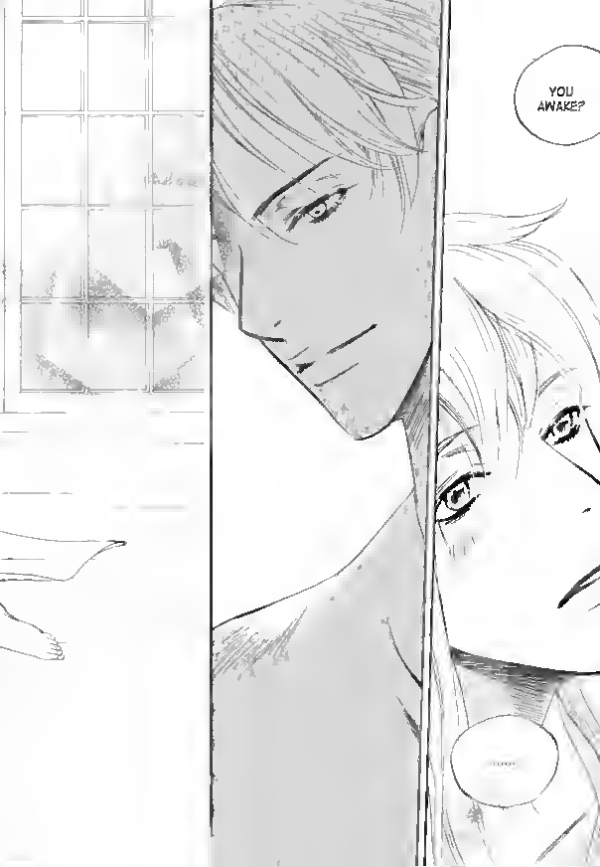


ROUBEVILLE #13

A CHOICE

ふぅ…


SLIDE


YOU AWAKE?

HOW ARE YOU FEEL... UMPH!

HEY
AREN'T YOU BEING A BIT TOO ENTHUSIASTIC? IT'S BORAD DAYLIGHT
PET
YOU OKAY WITH THIS, RIGHT?
HEH

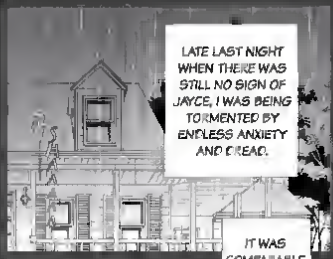
ARE YOU KIDDING ME?
I'VE BEEN SCAMMED
HUH?
I BET THIS IS HOW AN INNOCENT COUNTRY GIRL FEELS AFTER BEING SEDUCED BY SOME SLEEZE-BALL PLAYBOY.
WHAT'S UP WITH THIS GUY?
I WANNA DO IT.
I NEVER SAID I'LL BE THE RECEIVER!
I'LL DO GOOD I PROMISE.
SHOOMPH
HEY
WHY? YOU DON'T WANT ME TO?
NEVER IN MY WILDEST DREAMS DID I THINK JAYCE WAS CAPABLE OF SOMETHING LIKE THIS.

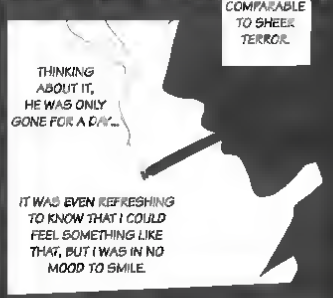
HOW THE HELL DID THIS HAPPEN?

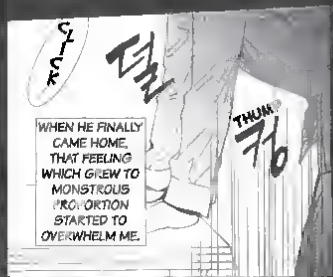
THIS IS NOT WHAT I INTENDED TO HAPPEN.

I JUST WANTED SOME KIND OF REASSURANCE.

SOMETHING ALONG THE LINES THAT JAYCE WILL NEVER DISAPPEAR.




IT WAS COMPARABLE TO SHEER TERROR.
THINKING ABOUT IT, HE WAS ONLY GONE FOR A DAY...
IT WAS EVEN REFRESHING TO KNOW THAT I COULD FEEL SOMETHING LIKE THAT, BUT I WAS IN NO MOOD TO SMILE.



DRUNK WITH EMOTION I WAS GOING AT FULL SPEED, NOT KNOWING WHERE I WAS HEADED LIKE A BLIND MAN JUST THEN...
SKRRP
SKRRT
PAUSE
IT OCCURRED TO ME THAT SOMETHING WAS NOT RIGHT...
YOU...
HOW...
HOW COME YOU'RE NOT RESISTING?

SHHHHH

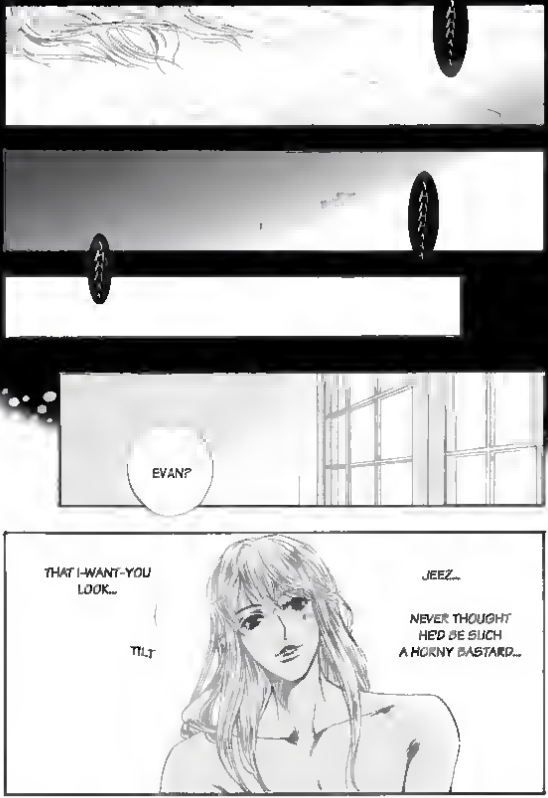
SLIDE
DAMNIT
HAH
DON'T YOU HAVE ANY SENSE OF SELF-DEFENSE?
WHAT AM I GOING TO DO WITH YOU?
OR DO YOU NOT KNOW WHAT IT IS?
YOU WHO ACT AS IF YOUR OWN SAFETY DOESN'T MATTER ONE BIT
YOU DUMBASS IDIOT...
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?
EVAN...

YOU'RE NOT GONNA DIE, RIGHT?
BECAUSE YOU'RE STRONG AND WISE
YOU'LL NEVER DIE, RIGHT?
DUDE
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
PROMISE ME—
THAT YOU'LL NEVER DIE

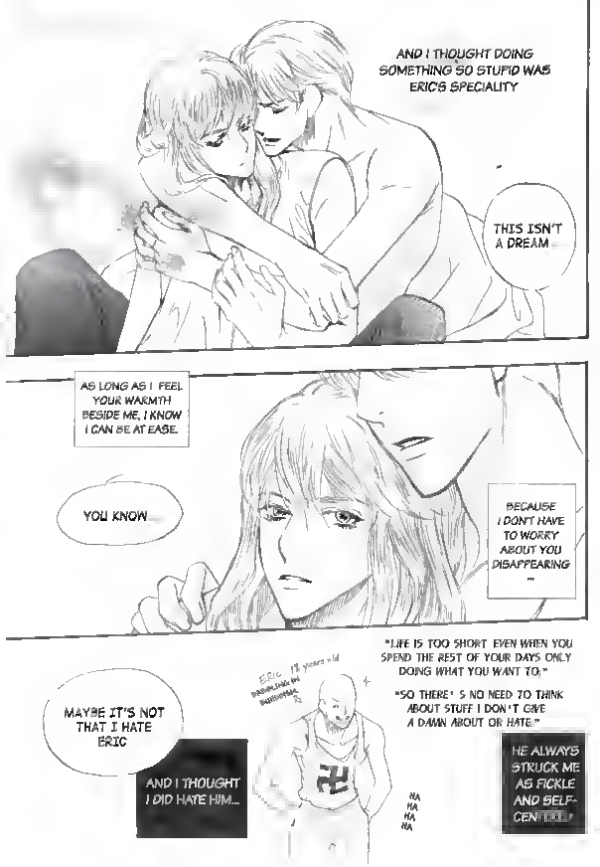
WHAT HAVE YOU GOT TO SAY FOR YOURSELF, HUH?
I...
I... WON'T DIE.
I'M NOT GONNA DIE...

EVERYBODY DIES.
WHETHER IT BE BY DISEASE, AN ACCIDENT, OR (VERY RARELY) DUE TO NATURAL CAUSES... WE'RE ALL FATED TO DIE SOMEHOW.
BUT YOUR EXPRESSION DOES NOT ALLOW DEATH, NO MATTER WHAT SHAPE OR FORM...
I HAD NO OTHER CHOICE.
WHAT KIND OF STUPID STATEMENT IS THIS?
I WILL NEVER DIE
OKAY.
THAT'S ALL I NEED.
I'LL TELL YOU AGAIN AND AGAIN.
SO YOU SHOULD PROMISE ME THAT YOU'LL NEVER DISAPPEAR LIKE A WHISP OF SMOKE.

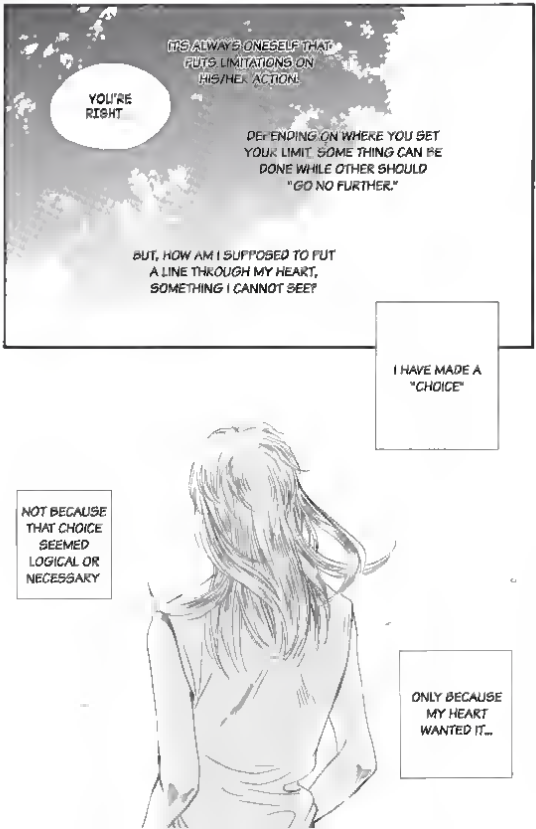
AS LONG AS YOU WANT ME TO...
I'LL ALWAYS BE WITH YOU...
PROMISE...?
I PROMISE...
SWISH


EVAN?
THAT I-WANT-YOU LOOK...
TILT
JEEZ...
NEVER THOUGHT HE'D BE SUCH A HORNY BASTARD...

PUT SOME CLOTHES ON
OH
HOW THE HELL DID WE COME TO THIS?
LAST NIGHT I FELT THERE WAS SOMETHING STRANGE ABOUT JAYCE'S ATTITUDE...
I'M NOT GONNA DIE..? WHAT THE HELL WAS I THINKING?
I MUST BE LOSING MY MIND!
BUT LATER ON HE WAS MORE PROACTIVE THAN I WAS...
I GET RUDE THIRSTY
WATER!
HEY!
SWISH


AND I THOUGHT DOING SOMETHING SO STUPID WAS ERIC'S SPECIALITY
THIS ISN'T A DREAM
AS LONG AS I FEEL YOUR WARMTH BESIDE ME, I KNOW I CAN BE AT EASE.
YOU KNOW
BECAUSE I DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT YOU DISAPPEARING
"LIFE IS TOO SHORT EVEN WHEN YOU SPEND THE REST OF YOUR DAYS ONLY DOING WHAT YOU WANT TO."
"SO THERE' S NO NEED TO THINK ABOUT STUFF I DON'T GIVE A DAMN ABOUT OR HATE."
MAYBE IT'S NOT THAT I HATE ERIC
AND I THOUGHT I DID HATE HIM...
HE ALWAYS STRUCK ME AS FICKLE AND SELF-CEN
HA HA HA HA

HE DID ALL SORTS OF WEIRD THINGS... LIKE THAT TIME WHEN I WAS 4 AND HE TOLD ME I SHOULDN'T TRUST MY PARENTS
HE DONATED HIS RIGHT EYE TO A BLIND KID HE MET A MONTH BEFORE.
HE DOESN'T HAVE MUCH TO LIVE. AT LEAST WE'LL BE ABLE TO SEE EACH OTHER FOR ABOUT A MONTH
YOU KNOW, I WAS VOLUNTEERING AT THE HOSPITAL, AND
ERIC WAS ALWAYS FALLING IN LOVE...
AND THEN THE SUMMER WHEN HE TURNED 21...
THE BOY DIED EXACTLY 22 DAYS LATER.
FATHER WAS ENRAGED, MOTHER FAINTED...
ERIC REFUSED TO GET A CORNEAL TRANSPLANT.
SEE, SEE-? A GIFT FROM LOUIS!
GLASS EYES
NEAT. HUH?
I SERIOUSLY THOUGHT ERIC WAS CRAZY
...
ENVIED HIM...
I ENVIED THE FREEDOM HE HAD
HIS ABILITY TO COME OUT AND SAY THAT HE WANTED THE THINGS HE WANTED
YOU CAN DO THAT TOO... FROM NOW ON
YEAH I GUESS SO


IT'S ALWAYS ONESELF THAT PUTS LIMITATIONS ON HIS/HER ACTION.
YOU'RE RIGHT
DEPENDING ON WHERE YOU SET YOUR LIMIT, SOME THING CAN BE DONE WHILE OTHER SHOULD "GO NO FURTHER."
BUT, HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO PUT A LINE THROUGH MY HEART, SOMETHING I CANNOT SEE?
I HAVE MADE A "CHOICE"
NOT BECAUSE THAT CHOICE SEEMED LOGICAL OR NECESSARY
ONLY BECAUSE MY HEART WANTED IT...

E. Hae
3
Roureville

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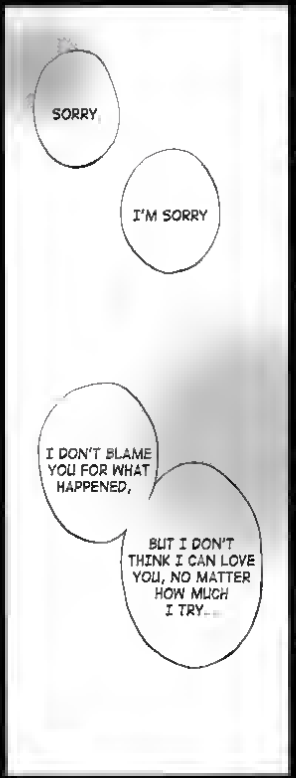

SORRY
I'M SORRY
I DON'T BLAME YOU FOR WHAT HAPPENED,
BUT I DON'T THINK I CAN LOVE YOU, NO MATTER HOW MUCH I TRY...

A LOT OF PEOPLE LOSE THEIR SIGNIFICANT OTHERS BUT MOVE ON WITH THEIR LIVES AFTER FINDING ANOTHER MATE. HOWEVER, I GUESS THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO ARE MEANT TO HAVE ONLY ONE LIFE-PARTNER

HE LOOKED AS IF ALL TRACE OF LIFE HAS BEEN SUCKED OUT OF HIM.

ALWAYS PALE AND LIVID

MY DARK HAIR ONLY REMINDED HIM OF SOMEONE WHO NO LONGER EXISTED...

TO HIM, I WAS NOT A SOURCE OF COMFORT OR CONSOLATION BUT SOMETHING THAT ONLY INCREASED HIS SENSE OF LOSS.

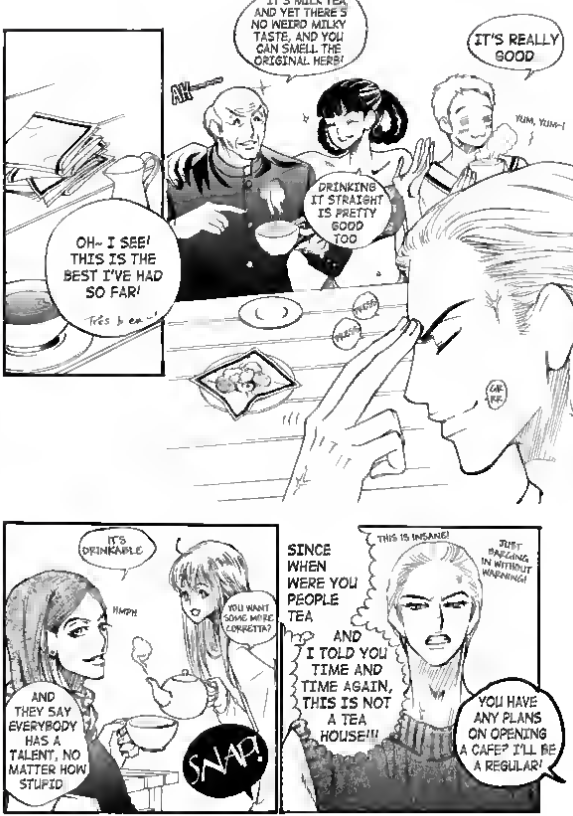
I NEVER MET HER.
BECAUSE SHE DIED WHILE GIVING BIRTH TO ME.
THAT SHE INSISTED THEY SAVE MY LIFE INSTEAD OF HERS
MISS BESSY, WHO LOOKED AFTER OUR HOUSE, TOLD ME.
I'M JUST GUESSING BUT I DON'T THINK I AM ABLE TO LIVE WITH HER DECISION.
"YOU CHOSE SOME KID WE HAVEN'T EVEN SEEN YET OVER ME."
"I'VE BEEN ABANDONED."
AFTER 5 YEARS HE WAS STILL GRIEVING HER DEATH, CONSTANTLY GETTING ANGRY IN THE PROCCESS

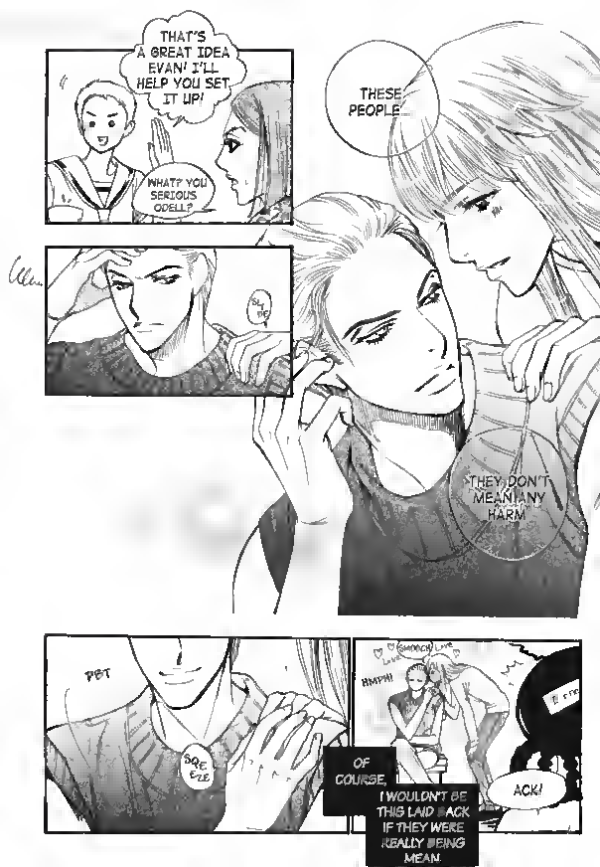
INSTEAD OF THINKING ABOUT THE HAPPY MEMORIES THEY HAD TOGETHER, HE CHOSE TO STARE AT HER EMPTY SEAT AND WALLOW IN MISERY.
THERE WASN'T MUCH I COULD DO FOR THE GUY WHO WENT THROUGH TORTURE EVERY TIME HE LOOKED AT ME.
FINALLY, HE DECIDED TO HAVE SOMEBODY ELSE RAISE ME.
IF YOUR HAIR WASN'T BLACK, THEN I COULD AT LEAST...
REALLY I NEVER KNEW.
SLIDE
BUT I REGRETTED BEING BORN WITH BLACK HAIR.
SORRY...
TAP
I'M SORRY

I DON'T BLAME YOU FOR WHAT HAPPENED,
BUT I DON'T THINK I CAN LOVE YOU, NO MATTER HOW MUCH I TRY...
SNIFF
HIS HAND THAT AWKWARDLY WITHDREW ITSELF...
I WANT TO TELL HIM IT WAS OKAY.
THAT IT WAS FINE, THAT I LOVED HIM REGARDLESS. I WANTED TO TELL HIM THAT

I REALLY, REALLY WANTED TO DO WHATEVER HE ASKED OF ME.
I WANTED TO DO WHATEVER I COULD FOR HIM.
I KNOW
CONTRARY TO WHAT HE SAID, I KNOW HE BLAMES ME FOR WHAT HAPPENED.
WHEN HE SAID HE DIDN'T, THAT WAS THE FIRST AND ONLY TIME HE OFFERED ME A GLIMPSE OF HIS PATERNAL LOVE.
I THINK THE LAST TIME I SAW HIM, HE WAS CRYING A LITTLE TOO.

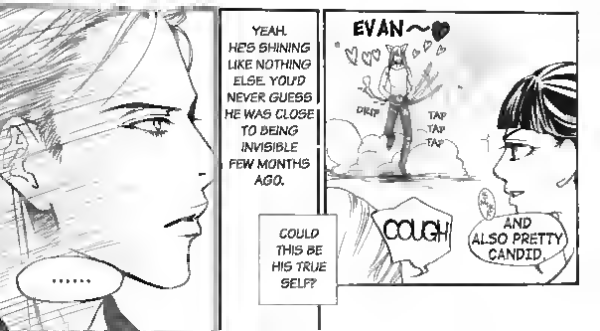
ROUREVILLE #14
NIGHTMARES

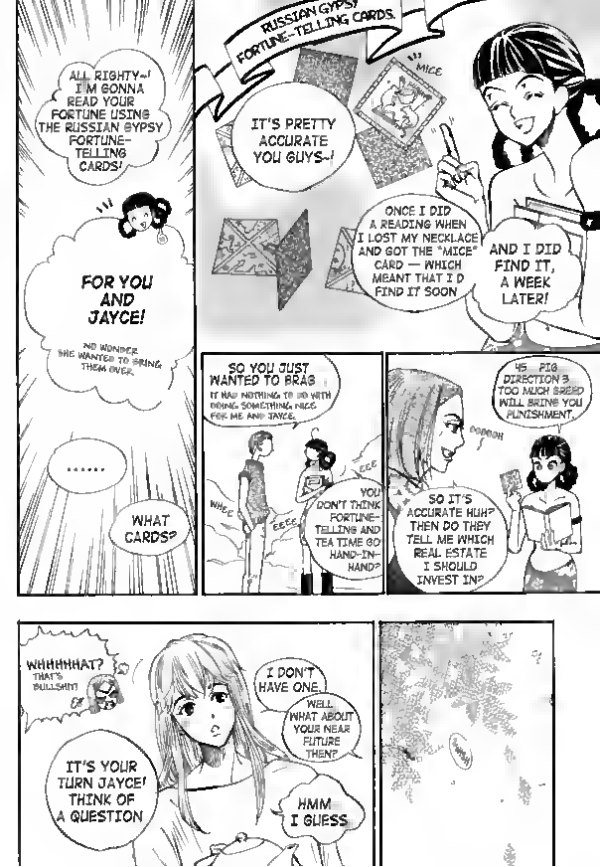

IT'S MILK TEA AND YET THERE'S NO WEIRD MILKY TASTE, AND YOU CAN SMELL THE ORIGINAL HERB!
IT'S REALLY GOOD
AH~~~
YUM, YUM~!
DRINKING IT STRAIGHT IS PRETTY GOOD TOO
OH~ I SEE! THIS IS THE BEST I'VE HAD SO FAR!
Très bien~!
SLURP
SLURP
GA-FF
IT'S DRINKABLE
HMPH
YOU WANT SOME MORE CORRETTA?
AND THEY SAY EVERYBODY HAS A TALENT, NO MATTER HOW STUPID
SNAP!
SINCE WHEN WERE YOU PEOPLE TEA
THIS IS INSANE!
JUST BARGING IN WITHOUT WARNING!
AND I TOLD YOU TIME AND TIME AGAIN, THIS IS NOT A TEA HOUSE!!!
YOU HAVE ANY PLANS ON OPENING A CAFE? I'LL BE A REGULAR!


THAT'S A GREAT IDEA EVAN! I'LL HELP YOU SET IT UP!
WHAT? YOU SERIOUS ODELL?
SIGH
THESE PEOPLE...
THEY DON'T MEAN ANY HARM
PAT
SQUEEZE
SMACK! LIPS
MMPH!
OF COURSE, I WOULDN'T BE THIS LAID BACK IF THEY WERE REALLY BEING MEAN.
ACK!

I'LL GO AND BOIL SOME MORE WATER FOR THE TEA
YOU GUYS...
ARE MAKING REAL GOOD PROGRESS AREN'T YA?
WADDLE
WADDLE
COUGH!
켈록!
WHY IS JAYCE WALKING LIKE THAT?
THAT WASN'T ME! IT WAS BECAUSE JAYCE...
DUDE, YOU'RE PRETTY CALLOUS
COUGH!
NO... WAIT.. YES, IT IS MY FAULT.
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO FLIP OUT ON ME?
I MEAN, DON'T YOU FEEL DISGUSTED?
FLIP OUT ON YOU?
WHAT WOULD I GAIN BY CRITICIZING SOMEBODY ELSE'S PRIVATE LIFE?

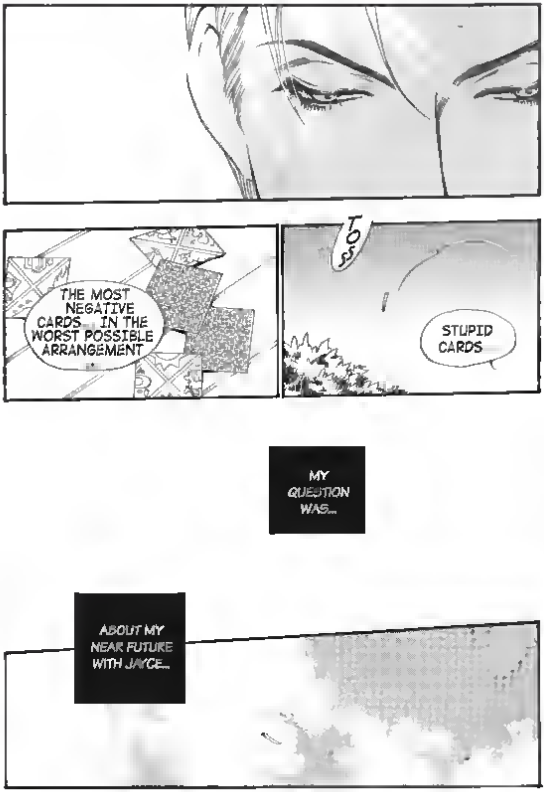
I SHOULDN'T BE DOING SOMETHING TO OTHERS THAT I DON'T WANT DONE TO ME
BESIDES
HE'S FULL OF LIFE


.....
YEAH. HE'S SHINING LIKE NOTHING ELSE. YOU'D NEVER GUESS HE WAS CLOSE TO BEING INVISIBLE FEW MONTHS AGO.
COULD THIS BE HIS TRUE SELF?
EVAN~♥
DRIP
TAP TAP TAP
COUGH!
AND ALSO PRETTY CANDID


ALL RIGHTY~! I'M GONNA READ YOUR FORTUNE USING THE RUSSIAN GYPSY FORTUNE-TELLING CARDS!
FOR YOU AND JAYCE!
NO WONDER SHE WANTED TO BRING THEM OVER.
.....
WHAT CARDS?
RUSSIAN GYPSY FORTUNE-TELLING CARDS.
MICE
IT'S PRETTY ACCURATE YOU GUYS~!
ONCE I DID A READING WHEN I LOST MY NECKLACE AND GOT THE "MICE" CARD — WHICH MEANT THAT I'D FIND IT SOON
AND I DID FIND IT, A WEEK LATER!
SO YOU JUST WANTED TO BRAG
IT HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH DOING SOMETHING NICE FOR ME AND JAYCE.
WHEE
EEEE
YOU DON'T THINK FORTUNE-TELLING AND TEA TIME GO HAND-IN-HAND?
YES. FIG. DIRECTION'S TOO MUCH SWORD WILL BRING YOU PUNISHMENT.
DOOMOM
SO IT'S ACCURATE HUH? THEN DO THEY TELL ME WHICH REAL ESTATE I SHOULD INVEST IN?
WHHHHHAT?
THAT'S BULLSHIT!
IT'S YOUR TURN JAYCE! THINK OF A QUESTION
I DON'T HAVE ONE.
WELL WHAT ABOUT YOUR NEAR FUTURE THEN?
HMM I GUESS
HMMM

HUH...!
IRENE... THESE CARDS ARE WEIRD.
NO MATCHING PICTURES AT ALL! AND THERE ARE 50 OF THEM!
OH WOW
IS IT BAD?
NO IT'S OKAY THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN SOMETHING LIKE THIS BUT ACCORDING
TO THE BOOK IT JUST MEANS NOTHING SPECIAL'S GONNA HAPPEN ANY TIME SOON
OH
THAT MAKES SNESE
10 MINUTES LATER
.....
HMMMM
THESE ARE STRANGE PICTURES
NOW IT'S YOUR TURN MR EVAN PRYCE YOU LOOK LIKE YOU COULD WITHSTAND SOME BAD LUCK!

WHAT'S THIS BOX WITH A CROSS ON THE TOP?
A HEARSE.
WHAT THE HELL WAS YOUR QUESTION, EVAN?
WHAT'S WRONG? IS MY FORTUNE THAT BAD?
HEARSE, SCYTHE, MOUNTAIN, SNAKE... SHIT. I'VE NEVER HAD THESE PICTURES COME UP IN A READING BEFORE.
GULP
ALL THE NEGATIVE CARDS IN THE PACK, IN THE WORST POSSIBLE ARRANGEMENT TOO!!
SNAKE! IT SAYS YOU SHOULDN'T GO INTO THE MOUNTAIN BECAUSE YOU MIGHT GET BITTEN BY A SNAKE. YOU SHOULD BE CAREFUL FOR A WEEK AT LEAST!
YOU SEE ANY SNAKES AROUND HERE? THOSE CARDS ARE BULLSHIT!
FORTUNE TELLING'S JUST FOR FUN. CALM DOWN!
HER
OH
WATCH OUT FOR SNAKES EVAN!


THE MOST NEGATIVE CARDS... IN THE WORST POSSIBLE ARRANGEMENT
TOSS
STUPID CARDS
MY QUESTION WAS...
ABOUT MY NEAR FUTURE WITH JAYCE...

SLAVE
ROUREVIL
ROUREVILLE
I FINALLY FOUND IT
GRIN

EVAN PRYCE... THAT 20,000 DOLLARS IS MINE
SHOULD I SETTLE HERE PERMA-NENTLY?
ODELL ASKED IF I WANTED TO OPEN A REAL CAFE WITH HIM
HE SAID QUITE A NUMBER OF PEOPLE LIVE OUT-SIDE THIS TOWN

DOESN'T SEEM LIKE A BAD IDEA DOING NOTHING BUT WRITING NOVELS WILL BE BORING ANYWAY
EVAN...
YOU DON'T HAVE TO OVER-DO IT
I'M CHANGING...
I'M NOT OVER-DOING ANYTHING
KIC ICE
I'M DOING WHAT MY HEART'S TELLING ME TO DO
ACCEPTING SOMEONE IS LIKE OFFERING A PART OF MYSELF TO THAT PERSON.
YOU DON'T NEED THIS ANYMORE, RIGHT?
TEDDY'S MY FRIEND YOU GAVE HIM TO ME
THE FEELING IS ENOUGH TO MAKE ME LIGHT-HEADED...
IT'S OKAY...
BECAUSE I'M HERE
I'M CHANGING...

WHERE'S EVAN?
I CAN'T SEE VERY WELL
— IT'S TOO DARK IN HERE.
WHAT'S THAT NOISE?
SOUNDS LIKE WATER DRIPPING OR SOMETHING...
DRIP
DRIP
DRIP
SPLASH
WHAT'S THIS? I DON'T LIKE THIS AT ALL...
EVAN, IS THAT YOU?
DRIP
DRIP

SMILE
GRIN
EVAN!
SLICE
GRIN
I WILL KILL...
N..NO...
EVERY SINGLE PERSON YOU LOVE
NO!!!

HAH

.....
THE SUN'S UP...
SIGH
CAN I ACTUALLY GO ON LIVING LIKE THIS HUH MJ ?
EVAN, YOU UP ALREADY?
EH?

EVAN-
.....
철썩
EVAN?
DRIP
THE NIGHTMARE...
THE NIGHTMARE...

EVAN!
BECOMES REALITY.

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ROUBEVILLE #15
DEEP RIVER CURRENTS
BENEATH MY FEET

"YOU'RE NOT GOING TO DIE, ARE YOU?"

HE ASKED ME WITH DESPERATE EYES, AND I ANSWERED,

"I WON'T DIE."

I REPEATEDLY TOLD HIM THAT, OVER AND OVER.

KNOCK
SUCH AN UNBELIEVABLY CRUEL WAY TO OFF SOMEONE
WE'LL HAVE TO WAIT FOR THE AUTOPSY RESULTS TO FIND OUT THE DETAILS, BUT I CAN TELL THE KILLER SLASHED THE VICTIM'S NECK AND SMASHED HIS HEAD WITH A DULL OBJECT
THERE'S NO TRACE OF MR FRYCE AHEM AHEM RESISTING OR PUTTING UP A FIGHT
AT THE VERY LEAST, IT'S FORTUNATE THAT HE WAS ATTACKED IN HIS SLEEP SO HE PROBABLY DIDN'T EVEN HAVE A CHANCE TO FEEL PAIN

THE M O WAS CRUEL, AND HE'S GOT A VERY CLEAN STYLE. LOOKS LIKE IT WAS DONE BY AN 'EXPERT' IN THIS LINE OF WORK.
HE'S MISSING A FEW TEETH. WHERE DID THEY DISAPPEAR TO?
WELL, WHAT WOULD A COUNTRY SHERIFF KNOW ABOUT THIS SORT OF THING, EVEN IF I'M STARING AT IT?
WE DID CALL A FORENSICS TEAM, BUT AS YOU KNOW, THIS IS A VERY REMOTE AREA. IT WILL TAKE SOME TIME FOR THEM TO ARRIVE.
DO YOU HAVE ANY INKLING OF WHO MIGHTA DONE THIS? LIKE SOMEONE WHO HAD A GRUDGE AGAINST HIM OR ANYTHING?
SHERIFF

MR PRYCE?

AHEM

I DIDN'T KNOW A PERSON COULD BLEED SO MUCH...
IT SEEMS THAT A GRUDGE AGAINST ME...
AND NOT AGAINST ERIC WAS THE CAUSE OF THIS

HE LEFT NO WILL, AND THERE WAS NO WARNING THAT THIS MIGHT HAPPEN.
ERIC WAS LAYING THERE PEACEFULLY IN A PUDDLE OF HIS OWN BLOOD.
EXCEPT THAT HIS HEAD WAS SMASHED IN,
SO I COULDN'T MAKE OUT THE SHAPE OF HIS FAKE EYE OR HIS GUILE SMILE.

HOW DISGUSTING...

I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M CASUALLY THINKING ABOUT HOW I'M GOING TO TAKE CARE OF THE FALLOUT FROM ALL THIS WHEN MY OWN BROTHER IS DEAD.

I DIDN'T EXPECT TO CRY A RIVER JUST BECAUSE A FAMILY MEMBER DIED, BUT TO NOT BE EMOTIONALLY STIRRED AT ALL?

I'M SO STRANGELY SERENE.

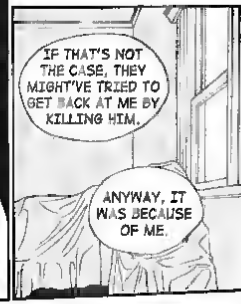
YOU CAN ONLY BE SO APATHETIC...
THIS IS NOT NATURAL
TUR RUL
RUL RUL
TUR RUL
TO A CERTAIN DEGREE, ERIC'S DEATH WAS EXPECTED
IT WAS SOMETHING THAT COULDVE HAPPENED TO ME OR ANYONE CLOSE TO ME AT ANY TIME...
FROM THE MOMENT I STARTED TO USE MY ABILITY TO SEE THROUGH OTHERS' INTENTIONS IN MY CAREER.

IT BEGAN AS MY SIMPLE DESIRE TO PLAY THOSE ELITE SNOBS SO THAT EVEN THEIR SECOND OLDEST SON COULD BETRAY THEM.
THE STUPID FAME I GAINED FROM OTHERS' BLOOD AND TEARS ISN'T SATISFYING AT ALL.
CHARITY FUND-RAISER
BUT IN NO TIME, I'VE BECOME THE SAME KIND OF SHALLOW PERSON.
THROP

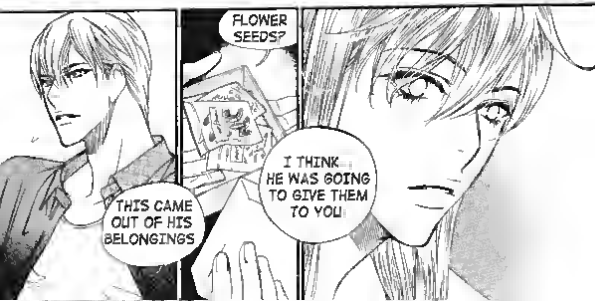
JAYCE

EVAN
I THOUGHT YOU WERE HURT, EVAN
AT FIRST,
BEFORE I CAME HERE I WROTE A SOMEWHAT DANGEROUS
ARTICLE. I THINK SOMEBODY WAS TRYING TO TAKE REVENGE BECAUSE OF THAT

THEY CONFUSED ERIC FOR ME.


IF THAT'S NOT THE CASE, THEY MIGHT'VE TRIED TO GET BACK AT ME BY KILLING HIM.
ANYWAY, IT WAS BECAUSE OF ME.

EVAN...


FLOWER SEEDS?
I THINK HE WAS GOING TO GIVE THEM TO YOU.
THIS CAME OUT OF HIS BELONGINGS.

YOU WANT TO PLANT FLOWERS HERE?
MARIGOLDS CALENDULA OR SUNFLOWERS WHICH ONES DO YOU LIKE THE MOST?
I'LL BRING YOU THE FLOWER SEEDS NEXT TIME I COME
SHOW ME THAT FLOWERS CAN BLOOM EVEN IN A WASTELAND LIKE THIS...
TOP
JAYCE?

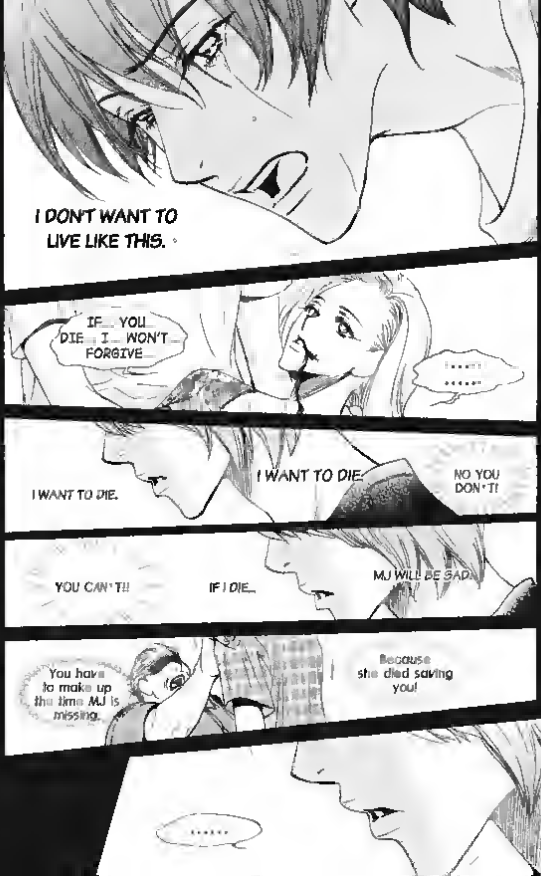
THEY CONFUSED
ERIC FOR ME.

EVAN!
AH!
AH—
AH—
JAYCE?

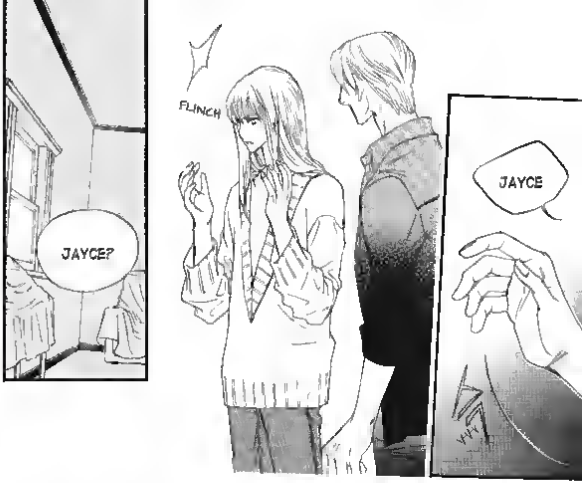
AH!
PLOF
!
KYUU!
Kyuu!

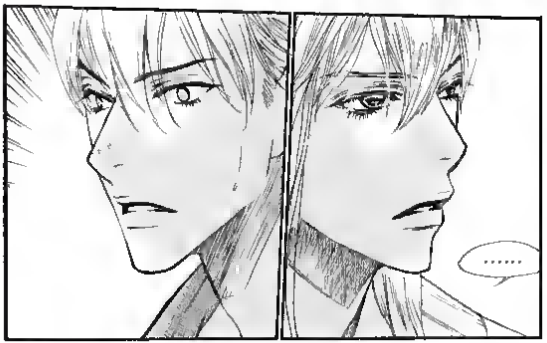
THE PEOPLE YOU LOVE...
I LOVE YOU JAYCE.
I WANT TO DIE.
DON'T EVER DIE.
I WANT TO DIE.
IF YOU DIE... I'LL NEVER FORGIVE YOU.

IT'S ALL MY FAULT!
I'M TOTALLY USELESS!
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT JAYCE.
THE PEOPLE THAT YOU LOVE...
I'M GONNA KILL EVERY SINGLE ONE OF THEM..
JAYCE...
EVERYONE I LOVE DIES!
YOU CAN'T... DIE


I DON'T WANT TO LIVE LIKE THIS.
IF... YOU DIE... I... WON'T FORGIVE...
.....
I WANT TO DIE.
I WANT TO DIE.
NO YOU DON'T!
YOU CAN'T!!
IF I DIE...
MJ WILL BE SAD.
You have to make up the time MJ is missing.
Because she died saving you!
.....

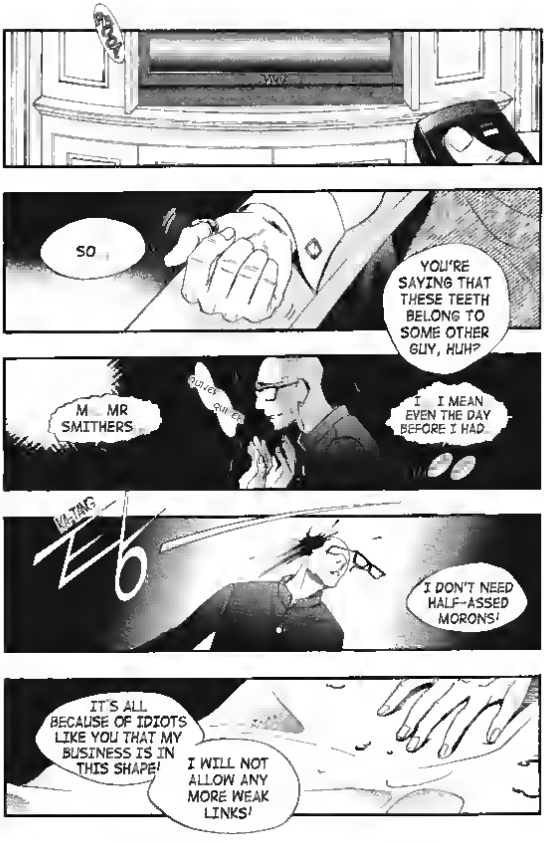
I HATE IT.
I HATE WHAT I'VE BECOME.
IF I CAN'T EVEN KILL MYSELF, I WISH I COULD AT LEAST...
SLOWLY FADE AWAY INTO THE AIR AND DISAPPEAR FOREVER.
SO I'LL BE INVISIBLE TO EVERYONE'S EYES.
AND SO I'LL NEVER LOVE ANYONE AGAIN.


JAYCE?
FLINCH
JAYCE


.....

J... JAYCE?
THUMP

LIVE
ERIC FRYCE
AGE 32
GRUESOME MURDER. THE VICTIM, ERIC FRYCE, WAS A LEADING FIGURE IN INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN RELIEF EFFORTS AND ALSO A LEADING ENVIRONMENTALIST IN ENDANGERED SPECIES AFFAIRS. HIS LOSS IS TRAGIC
FRYCE IS THE YOUNGER BROTHER OF EDNA FRYCE WHO WAS NOMINATED FOR THE PULITZER PRIZE IN JOURNALISM...
SOURCES SAY THAT THE MURDER WAS IN RETALIATION TO AN ARTICLE HIS BROTHER HAS RECENTLY WRITTEN.
BREAKING NEWS


SO...
YOU'RE SAYING THAT THESE TEETH BELONG TO SOME OTHER GUY, HUH?
M... MR SMITHERS
I... I MEAN EVEN THE DAY BEFORE I HAD...
I DON'T NEED HALF-ASSED MORONS!
IT'S ALL BECAUSE OF IDIOTS LIKE YOU THAT MY BUSINESS IS IN THIS SHAPE!
I WILL NOT ALLOW ANY MORE WEAK LINKS!

I END UP WITH THIS PATHETIC RESULT BECAUSE I LET AN OUTSIDER TAKE CARE OF IT.
RINGO, YOU'LL HAVE TO HANDLE THIS MATTER YOURSELF.
BEFORE I LEAVE THIS COUNTRY, I WILL PULL OUT EVERY LAST ONE OF THAT BASTARD'S TEETH!

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VOL.3 Ch.6

STOMP
STOMP
STOMP

IRENE!
IRENE'S
WELCOME--!
FATHER?
IRENE
WOULD YOU COME WITH ME PLEASE?

SORRY?
WHERE TO, ALL OF A SUDDEN?
CHRIS SAYS HE CAN'T SEE JAYCE.
Carrot
Carrot

HE SAYS HE CAN'T SEE HIM, EVEN WHEN JACYE IS
STANDING RIGHT IN FRONT OF HIM! CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?
I CAN STILL SEE HIM OKAY *BUT...

ACTUALLY, EVEN IN MY EYES...
NNF
JAYCE IS BLURRY

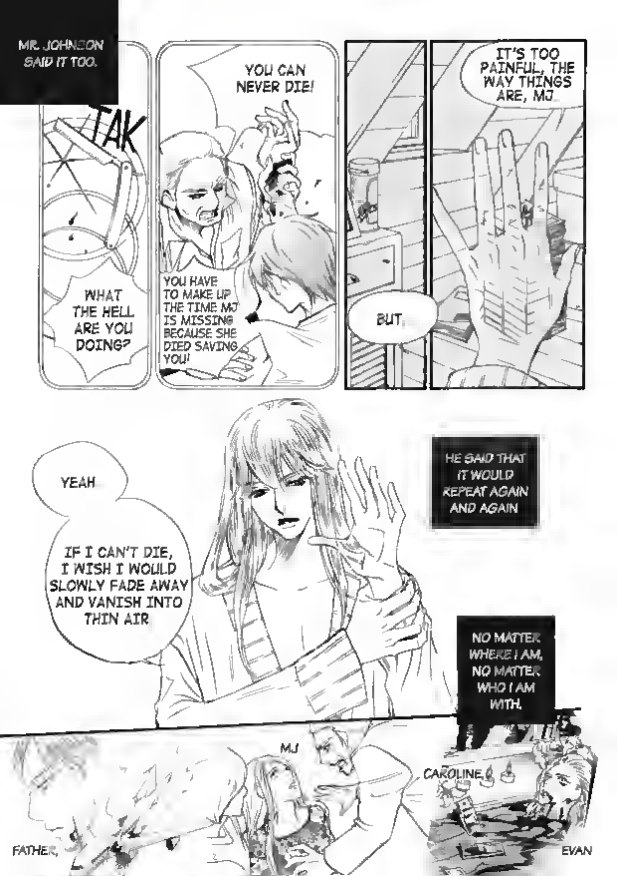
IT'S STARTED AGAIN

WHAT'S THE POINT OF GOING ON LIKE THIS?
I'M A PERSON WHO DOES NOTHING BUT BRING MISFORTUNE TO EVERYTHING AROUND HIM
I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING IN THIS DARKNESS, NOT EVEN AN INCH IN FRONT OF ME OR BEHIND ME

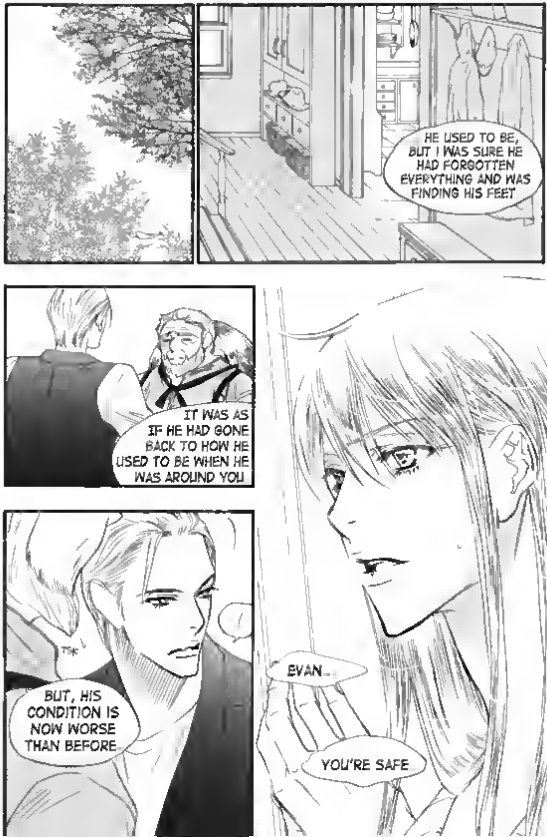
WHERE'S THE MEANING IN LIVING LIKE THIS?
I WANT TO DIE.
.....
I WANT TO DIE.
I WANT TO DIE.
YOU CAN'T DIE
YOU MUSTN'T DIE

I WANT TO DIE.
I MAKE EVERY-ONE UNHAPPY
YOU CAN'T DIE.
I WANT TO DIE.
EVERYONE HAS LEFT
EVERYONE IS DEAD.
YOU CAN'T DIE.
WHY NOT?
THIS WILL ALL BE OVER IF I'M DEAD.
WHY CAN'T I?
WHY CAN'T I DIE?

AH... THAT'S RIGHT.
I MADE A PROMISE TO M.J.
...I DID.
THAT I WOULD NEVER...
DIE

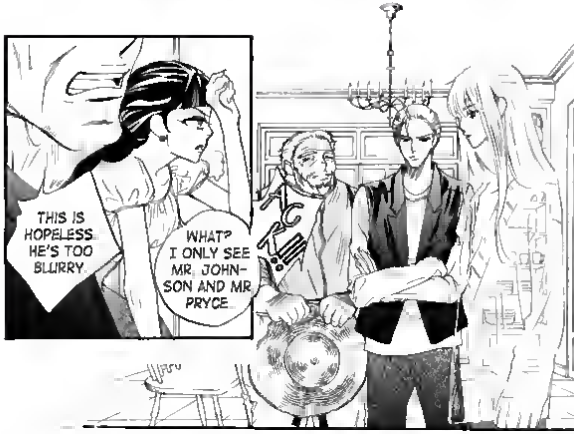

MR. JOHNSON SAID IT TOO.
TAK
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?
YOU CAN NEVER DIE!
YOU HAVE TO MAKE UP THE TIME MJ IS MISSING BECAUSE SHE DIED SAVING YOU!
BUT...
IT'S TOO PAINFUL, THE WAY THINGS ARE, MJ
YEAH
IF I CAN'T DIE, I WISH I WOULD SLOWLY FADE AWAY AND VANISH INTO THIN AIR
HE SAID THAT IT WOULD REPEAT AGAIN AND AGAIN
NO MATTER WHERE I AM, NO MATTER WHO I AM WITH.
FATHER
MJ
CAROLINE
EVAN

EVAN
EVAN, WHO'S THAT?
PBT
EVAN
I...
WON'T DIE
AH
AH AH
EVAN!!!
IS HE SAFE?!


HE USED TO BE, BUT I WAS SURE HE HAD FORGOTTEN EVERYTHING AND WAS FINDING HIS FEET
IT WAS AS IF HE HAD GONE BACK TO HOW HE USED TO BE WHEN HE WAS AROUND YOU
TSK
BUT, HIS CONDITION IS NOW WORSE THAN BEFORE
EVAN...
YOU'RE SAFE

WHAT A RELIEF.
YEAH, SO IT WAS ERIC WHO DIED.
YOU'RE STILL ALL RIGHT.
IS IT REALLY THAT SERIOUS?
I MEAN, TO BE THAT BLUNT!
THIS IS THE WORST IT'S EVER BEEN.
JAYCE...
MR. JOHNSON'S PROBABLY TOLD YOU ALREADY.
BUT I...
AM CURSED.

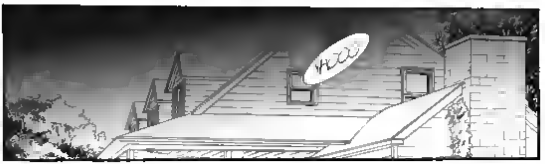
CURSED?
HMMP
YEAH. I'M CURSED
FROM A LONG, LONG TIME AGO, MAYBE FROM THE MOMENT I WAS BORN
EVAN, I'M GOING TO BRING YOU BAD LUCK TOO SEEING AS THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED TO ERIC, YOUR TURN MIGHT HAVE ALREADY STARTED
THE PEOPLE WHO STAY NEAR ME WILL DEFINITELY DIE OR MEET SOME OTHER MISFORTUNE
SO YOU SHOULD LEAVE THIS PLACE RIGHT AW---
wam
쿵
bam
쾅
JAYCE ---! MR. PRYCE! ---
OH DEAR
WH... WHERE'S JAYCE?


THIS IS HOPELESS. HE'S TOO BLURRY.
WHAT? I ONLY SEE MR. JOHNSON AND MR. PRYCE.

OH MY GOD! I CAN BARELY SEE HIM!
JUST AS I THOUGHT.

EVERYONE, PLEASE GO BACK.
IF YOU STAY AROUND ME YOU'LL ALL BE MISERABLE

JAYCE!!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?
THE MORE I LOVE THESE PEOPLE, THE FURTHER I SHOULD BE FROM THEM.
THANKS FOR EVERYTHING YOU'VE DONE FOR ME.
HOW COULD I HAVE POSSIBLY FORGOTTEN...
JAYCE.


YAWN

ONLY THE ONES WHO HAVE BEEN
HURT COULD RECOGNISE
THE ONES WHO ARE HURTING

WE DRAW EACH OTHER IN INSTINCTIVELY,
EVEN WHEN WE'RE NOT AWARE OF IT.

WHAT IF...

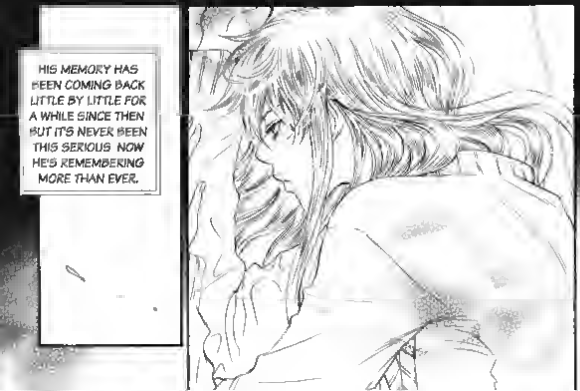
YOU REALLY DISAPPEAR FOREVER? WHAT WILL I DO THEN?

HE'S A TERRIBLY UNLUCKY BOY.
AT ONE POINT, HE ALMOST SEEMED AS IF HE WAS HEADING MISFORTUNE WHEREVER HE WENT.
HIS MOTHER DIED WHILE GIVING BIRTH TO HIM, AND HIS FATHER COULD NOT ACCEPT HIM.
I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY PLACES JAYCE HAD WANDERED THROUGH BEFORE... TOOK HIM IN AS A REMOTE COUSIN.
ODDLY ENOUGH, WHEREVER THE BOY WENT, BANKRUPTCY, SUICIDE, AND DIVORCES CONTINUED TO OCCUR.
HE WAS 15 OR 16 WHEN HE CAME TO ME. HE WAS LIFELESS.
I THOUGHT IT WAS NATURAL FOR HIM TO BE THAT WAY, CONSIDERING ALL THE HORROR HE'D BEEN THROUGH.
I WAS QUITE WORRIED FOR HIM BECAUSE I'D JUST LOST MY WIFE AND WAS ONLY LIVING WITH MY DAUGHTER.
BUT MY DAUGHTER MJ TOOK CARE OF EVERYTHING
MARY JANE WAS A SWEET GIRL WITH A CHEERFUL NATURE. SHE LOOKED AFTER JAYCE AS IF HE WERE HER OWN BROTHER.
JAYCE'S OUTWARD APPEARANCE BECAME MORE LIVELY. WHEN SHE TURNED 17, SHE WAS SCOUTED AS A MODEL FOR A FASHION MAGAZINE, AND HE EVEN HAD A RELIANCE.
THOSE WERE THE MIRACULOUSLY HAPPY AND PEACEFUL TIMES.
BUT THEN, THAT 'INCIDENT' HAPPENED.
JAYCE'S FATHER PASSED AWAY SUDDENLY IN AN AIRPLANE ACCIDENT.

ON TOP OF THAT, JAYCE'S FIANCE TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE PERIOD HE WAS GRIEVING AND RAN AWAY WITH ALL HIS ASSETS.
THE BOY NEVER GOT ANGRY
SHE LEFT HER CONTACTS.
IT MUST BE UNCOMFORTABLE FOR HER WITHOUT THEM
THAT'S WHEN I REALIZED THAT SOMETHING WAS REALLY WRONG WITH HIM
HMM
SOON AFTER THAT INCIDENT, JAYCE'S FIANCE'S BODY WAS DISCOVERED IN A MOTEL ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF ROUREVILLE
IT WAS LATER REVEALED
THAT THE MURDERER WAS A FANATIC WHO USED TO STALK JAYCE FROM HIS TIME AS A MODEL.
JAYCE PANICKED AFTER HIS FIANCE MET AN UNTIMELY DEATH JUST AFTER HIS FATHER'S.
MY DAUGHTER, MJ, WAS SO WORRIED THAT HE MIGHT MAKE AN EXTREME CHOICE, LIKE KILLING HIMSELF
BUT...

IT WAS THE WOMAN WHO KILLED JAYCE'S FIANCE THAT CAME TO OUR HOME WITH A KNIFE HIDDEN IN HER BAG.
MJ DIED, AND JAYCE HAD A TREMENDOUS SHOCK.
IT LOOKED LIKE HE LOST HIS MIND COMPLETELY.
AFTER THAT, THE BOY STARTED TO LOOK PALER, LIKE A GHOST.
HIS COLOR WOULD COME BACK AGAIN WHENEVER I REMINDED HIM OF MJ. BUT WE HAD TO LEAVE THE CITY BECAUSE THIS KIND OF THING WOULD HAPPEN REPEATEDLY.

I THOUGHT HE WAS GETTING BETTER SINCE WE MOVED TO ROUKEVILLE, BUT SOMETHING WENT WRONG WITH HIS MEMORIES.
MJ?
BUT SHE WENT TO STUDY IN ENGLAND!
HE REMEMBERED MJ, BUT HE DIDN'T KNOW THAT SHE HAD DIED. HE TALKED AS IF HIS FIANCE WAS LIVING SOMEWHERE ELSE, LIKE WHEN SHE HAD RUN AWAY FROM HIM.


HIS MEMORY HAS BEEN COMING BACK LITTLE BY LITTLE FOR A WHILE SINCE THEN BUT IT'S NEVER BEEN THIS SERIOUS. NOW HE'S REMEMBERING MORE THAN EVER.

I THINK I KNOW.
EVEN THOUGH I CAN'T SEE YOUR HEART
EVEN THOUGH I CAN'T HEAR YOUR WORDS,
I THINK I KNOW WHAT'S INSIDE YOUR THOUGHTS, JAYCE.
JAYCE
CAN YOU HEAR ME, JAYCE?
I WON'T DIE OR DISAPPEAR

SO DON'T GIVE UP ON ME
YOU'RE JUST TOO FRIGHTENED.
YOU RE SCARED AND AFRAID THAT THOSE THINGS WILL HAPPEN TO YOU AGAIN BECAUSE THEY VE HAPPENED TO YOU ALL YOUR LIFE.
THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS A CURSE
HHG
DON'T BE AFRAID, JAYCE!
DON'T TURN YOUR BACK ON ME
DON'T... RUN AWAY FROM ME
I CAN'T KISS HIM OR HOLD HIM CLOSE TO COMFORT HIM.

IF YOU INSIST ON SAYING THAT YOU'RE CURSED, I HAVE AN IDEA...
WHY THE HELL YOUR BODY BEHAVING THIS WAY?
イライラ

CLICK
EVAN PRYCE, IS THAT YOU?

E. Hae
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Roureville

Roureville

VOL.3 Ch.7

ROUREVILLE #16
Lust for Life

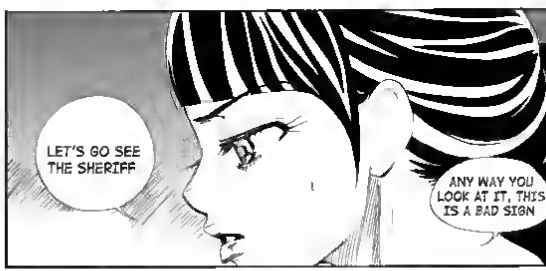
OH MY GOSH! WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

.....

GULP
JAYCE--!
MY PRYCE!
WHERE ARE YOU JAYCE?
WOW!
WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
HMPH. WHAT A MESS. WE FIXED IT REAL CLEAN LAST TIME TOO.
POP!
JAYCE!
JA...!
JAYCE?

I REALLY DON'T THINK PRYCE IS IN THIS HOUSE
IT'S GOTTEN WORSE
MUMBLE
HAVE YOU FOUND JAYCE?
JUST AS I THOUGHT
NEITHER OF YOU CAN SEE HIM, HUH?
?
HE'S HERE?
CORETTA, YOU'RE STANDING ON HIM RIGHT NOW
R
N
L
YOU'RE SEEING THIS?

JAYCE
?
JAYCE!
HIS SYMPTOMS ARE GETTING WORSE AND WORSE
AT THIS RATE WE'RE NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO ASK HIM ABOUT FRYCE'S WHEREABOUTS
JAYCE IS REALLY OVER THERE? SERIOUSLY?


LET'S GO SEE THE SHERIFF
ANY WAY YOU LOOK AT IT, THIS IS A BAD SIGN

FRYCE IS NOT THE TYPE OF PERSON TO LEAVE JAYCE ALONE ESPECIALLY WHEN HE'S IN THIS CONDITION
THE STATE OF THE DOOR IS FISHY TOO
JAYCE? I CAN'T SEE HIM
BY BAD SIGN YOU MEAN, LIKE EVAN'S BROTHER

PAT
I'M AFRAID THAT IT MIGHT BECOME
REALITY... IF YOU SAY IT OUT LOUD...

LIFE IS SOMETHING THAT CONTINUOUSLY REQUIRES YOUR BEST EFFORT.

YOU WANT AND YOU WANT AND
YOU DESPERATELY WANT SOMETHING.
YOU'RE RELIEVED WHEN YOU FINALLY
GRASP IT IN YOUR HAND,
BUT IT SLIPS THROUGH YOUR FINGERS
WITHOUT YOU NOTICING,
LIKE GRAINS OF SAND.

RAISON D'ETERE
A REASON FOR LIVING

I THOUGHT I FINALLY UNDERSTOOD
THAT STUPID EXPRESSION.

I CAN'T BELIEVE HOW GOD DAMN SADISTIC
THE BASTARD-OF-A-CREATOR IS.

JAYCE.
AH... AH... JAYCE.

I CAN'T CRUMBLE NOW.
I MUST MAKE IT BACK ALIVE.

OH... GOD...

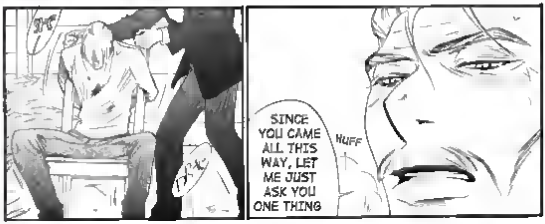
JAYCE. JAYCE.

JAYCE!
WHY IS HE STILL NOT WAKING UP?
UM... IT'S A LITTLE TOO...
WHAT? YOU THINK HE'S ASLEEP?
I'LL HAVE TO CHECK OUT THIS BAD BOY IF HE'S GOT THE BALLS TO SLEEP THROUGH A SITUATION LIKE THIS
FWACK
TH OD

GRUMP
YOU'RE SLEEPING AT A TIME LIKE THIS? YOU'VE GOT SOME NERVE!
GRUMP
CALM DOWN. IT'S NOT GOOD FOR YOUR HEART.
DID I... I FALL ASLEEP? I GUESS I JUST RESTED SINCE I PASSED OUT ANYWAY. WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME I FELL ASLEEP?
SINCE ERIC WAS KILLED AND STRANGE THINGS STARTED HAPPENING TO JAYCE, MY DESIRE TO SLEEP UP AND LEFT
HA HA.
GRAB
IS THIS FUNNY TO YOU?
GRAB
DO YOU KNOW WHAT KIND OF POSITION YOU PUT ME IN YOU BASTARD?

SW
BECAUSE OF YOU, YOU PATHETIC LOW-LIFE --!!
MG
oh!
IT WOULDN'T BE ENOUGH, EVEN IF I PULLED OUT ALL YOUR TEETH
AND BLEND YOUR LIMBS INTO A COCKTAIL
HOW AM I GOING TO VENT MY ANGER?
SOME LOW-LIFE!
WHOOSH
SOME LOW-FUCKING-LIFE!!!
PUNCH
DESTROYS MY LONG CHERISHED LIFE'S DREAM IN A DAY!
PUNCH
BOSS!
BOSS, CALM DOWN PLEASE
JUST THINKING ABOUT HOW YOU SINGLE-HANDEDLY DESTROYED MY ORGANIZATION !!!
PUNCH
WHOOSH
BOSS!! YOU HAVE TO THINK ABOUT YOUR HEART!

HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
YEAH MY HEART
HUFF

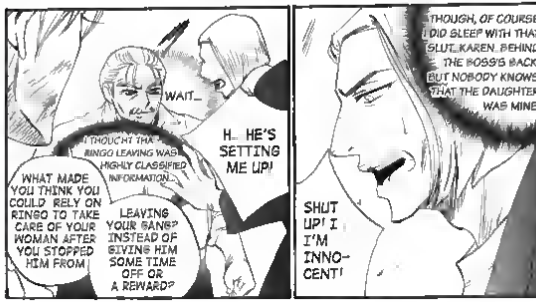

SINCE YOU CAME ALL THIS WAY, LET ME JUST ASK YOU ONE THING
HUFF

HOW DID YOU GET IN THAT KAREN-BITCH'S PANTS?

KAREN?
WHY DID YOU KILL US?
IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE...
I GOT RID OF THE DAUGHTER AS AN EXAMPLE, AND SHE JUST KILLED HERSELF AFTER THAT RIGHT IN FRONT OF US.
THE BITCH KNEW VERY WELL WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO HER IF SHE BETRAYED ME. I JUST CAN'T WRAP MY HEAD AROUND WHY SHE CHOSE TO BETRAYED ME
ILLUSION... EVERYTHING WAS AN ILLUSION.
HAH!
YOU THINK IT WAS HER?
I USED KAREN AND HER DAUGHTER, PRETENDING I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO THEM.
IT WAS ONLY AN ILLUSION. THEY APPEARED IN MY DREAMS EVERY NIGHT AND TORTURED ME, BUT IT WAS ONLY AN ILLUSION THAT MY GUILT CREATED.
ARE YOU PLAYING WITH ME? WHO ELSE IF NOT THAT BITCH—?
HMPH!
I GUESS EVEN A COLD-BLOODED BEING LIKE ME CAN FEEL GUILT.

THE GUY WHO'S BEEN WITH YOU THE LONGEST AND BEEN CLOSEST TO YOU
YOU'VE TREATED HIM LIKE SHIT FOR A LONG TIME

I DID STOP RINGO WHEN HE TRIED TO LEAVE THE ORGANIZATION SAYING HE WAS GOING TO OPEN SHOP WITH HIS COUSIN, BUT I DOUBT HE'D BETRAY ME OVER SUCH A PETTY THING!
HMPH
YOU DON'T THINK SO?
NO WAY!
YOU DON'T NEED TO LISTEN TO THIS CRAP BOSS. HE'S TRYING TO FRAME ME AND TURN US AGAINST EACH OTHER!

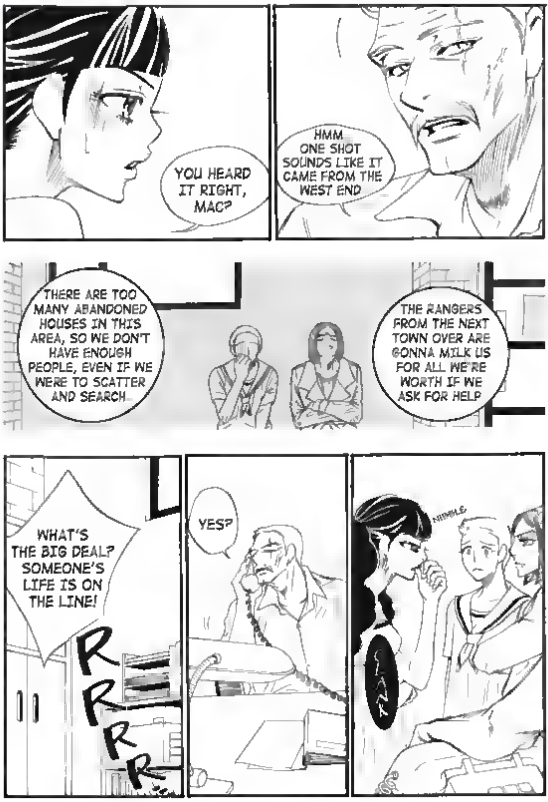

WAIT...
I THOUGHT THAT RINGO LEAVING WAS HIGHLY CLASSIFIED INFORMATION...
H... HE'S SETTING ME UP!
WHAT MADE YOU THINK YOU COULD RELY ON RINGO TO TAKE CARE OF YOUR WOMAN AFTER YOU STOPPED HIM FROM
LEAVING YOUR GANG? INSTEAD OF GIVING HIM SOME TIME OFF OR A REWARD?
THOUGH, OF COURSE I DID SLEEP WITH THAT SLUT, KAREN BEHIND THE BOSS'S BACK. BUT NOBODY KNOWS THAT THE DAUGHTER WAS MINE.
SHUT UP! I I'M INNO- CENT!

LEAVING THE FAMILY
CANCER
BOSS!
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, ONLY ME AND THE BOSS KNOW ABOUT ME TRYING TO LEAVE.
I DIDN'T GET TO TALK TO HIM FOR ALL THAT LONG ABOUT IT. HE GOT REAL FURIOUS AS SOON AS I BROUGHT IT UP...
HOW DOES THIS BASTARD KNOW SO MUCH?
SHIT...
THEN, WHO DO YOU THINK IS THE REAL FATHER OF KAREN'S DAUGHTER
TWITCH
AH... AH...
CHATTER
CHATTER
SHK
SHOOK
SHK
VAT

YEAH, NO WONDER THAT WHORE
TRIED SO HARD TO HIDE WHO KNOCKED HER UP
YEAH I DID SLEEP WITH HER A FEW TIMES IT'S NOT LIKE YOU GAVE A SHIT ABOUT HER ANYWAY
YOU YOU SON OF A BITCH! YOU BETRAYED ME? HOW MANY YEARS HAVE I WATCHED OUT FOR YOU?
LET'S GET THINGS STRAIGHT HERE WHAT DID YOU EVER DO FOR ME EXCEPT USE ME LIKE A SLAVE?
YOU BASTARD! YOU BAS- TARD!
PER- VERTED OLD FART! YOU MI SER!
WHERE
TETER
TAP
SCRAM
HUFF
HUFF

BANG
AH
I GOTTA GET BACK ALIVE!

SHERIFF


YOU HEARD IT RIGHT, MAC?
HMM. ONE SHOT SOUNDS LIKE IT CAME FROM THE WEST END
THERE ARE TOO MANY ABANDONED HOUSES IN THIS AREA, SO WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH PEOPLE, EVEN IF WE WERE TO SCATTER AND SEARCH
THE RANGERS FROM THE NEXT TOWN OVER ARE GONNA MILK US FOR ALL WE'RE WORTH IF WE ASK FOR HELP
WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL? SOMEONE'S LIFE IS ON THE LINE!
R R R R
YES?
HMMLE

THAT WAS THE GOVERNOR. HE SAYS HE'LL ASSIST US IN EVERY WAY HE CAN. HE WANTS US TO PROTECT PRYCE
LOOKS LIKE WE'LL BE ABLE TO WORK THE BASTARDS FROM THE NEXT TOWN OVER ALL WE WANT.
HMPH I THOUGHT HE HAD SOME PRECIOUS CONNECTIONS
HUH?
BANG

DRIP

THERE'S NOT A SINGLE BASTARD I CAN TRUST
I'VE WASTED MY LIFE
KEH KEH KEH
HUFF HUFF
WHY ARE YOU GIVING ME THAT LOOK?
AH, I ALSO KNOW THAT RINGO DOESN'T HAVE THE BALLS TO BETRAY ME

IT'S NOT THAT IMPORTANT WHETHER OR NOT THE BASTARD BETRAYED ME
WHAT MATTERS IS THAT HE LIED TO ME ME! THE BIG BOSS! THE HEAD HONCHO!
KEH KEH

HE'S TOTALLY LOST HIS MIND... DAMN, THIS IS GOING TO BE A LITTLE DIFFICULT...
IT'S HARDER TO HANDLE PEOPLE WHO HAVE LOST THEIR MINDS IN ANGER THAN A PSYCHO.
KEH KEH
BUT STILL, I'VE GOTTA GET BACK ALIVE.

OH THAT'S RIGHT I HAVE A SPECIAL GIFT FOR YOU
CLACK
TAP TAK

THE IDIOT BROUGHT ME THESE INSTEAD OF YOURS.
TEETH?
YOUR BROTHER'S, WAS IT ERIC?
ERIC'S TEETH!?
LIFE IS TOO SHORT
HUFF
IT'S TOO SHORT EVEN TO JUST DO WHAT MAKES YOU HAPPY
DON'T YOU THINK?
ERIC...
YOU USELESS, SAD EXCUSES FOR HUMAN BEINGS! YOU SONS OF BITCHES! YOU'RE THE LOWEST SCUM ON THE PLANET!
YOU BASTARD!
TWITCH
NOT ONLY DOES YOUR JUNK NOT WORK RIGHT, YOUR BRAIN DOESN'T EITHER!
THIS HAS GOT TO BE A COINCIDENCE. NOBODY ELSE KNOWS I'M IMPOTENT

"THIS HAS GOT TO BE A COINCIDENCE NOBODY ELSE KNOWS I'M IMPOTENT."
SHUDDER
YOU'VE BEEN CURIOUS WHO BETRAYED YOU, RIGHT?
EEK
WHA..WHAT IS THIS WACK-JOB? IF HE CAN READ MY MIND...
OF COURSE I CAN READ YOUR MIND.
I'M READING YOUR MIND RIGHT NOW.
ERIC.
ERIC.
ALL THESE EMOTIONS THAT I NEVER IMAGINED, I HAD INSIDE ME.
MO..
MON--STER!
THUP
IF I'M A MONSTER, WHAT DOES THAT MAKE YOU?
YOU'RE THE PERVERT WHO STRANGLED HIS OWN WIFE BECAUSE YOU COULDN'T TRUST HER. WHO WOULD EVER TRUST YOU?
WORRIES, AFFECTION, GRUDGES, ANGER THAT HAS NO OUTLET... ALL THESE UNNECESSARY AND EXHAUSTING EMOTIONS IN LIFE.
ENJOY THE LAST SCARE OF YOU LIFE.
ERIC, ERIC... YOU SCUMBAGS ENDED HIS BUDDING LIFE

CLICK
AH AH AH

I GUESS ERIC WOULDN'T WANT ME TO SPILL BLOOD OUT OF VENGEANCE

E. Hae
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BRAAAAAA

HOW OLD DOES JAYCE LOOK TO YOU NOW?
32. HAS IT BEEN THAT LONG ALREADY? TIME FLIES
IF MJ WERE STILL LIVING, SHE WOULD BE...

JAYCE IS THREE YEARS OLDER THAN MJ.
YEAH, THE BOY'S IN HIS THIRTIES.
EVEN THOUGH 15 YEARS HAVE PASSED, TIME STOPPED FOR JAYCE THE DAY MJ DIED.
TIME, FOR HIM, HAS STAGNATED FOR OVER A DECADE. SUCH A LONG TIME...
HE REALLY WANTED TO DIE.
IT'S ONLY NATURAL AFTER EXPERIENCING SUCH TRAUMA.
HE'S ATTEMPTED SUICIDE A COUPLE TIMES, BUT HE COULDN'T SEE IT THROUGH.
WON'T FORGIVE YOU.. IF... YOU DIE...
MJ'S LAST WORDS FOR HIM WERE FOR HIM TO LIVE ON

AH... I SEE. THAT STRANGE LOOK IN HIS EYES THAT I COULDN'T GRASP FROM THE MOMENT I SAW HIM...

JAYCE.
AH. AH.
JAYCE.

YOU IDIOT... IS THAT WHAT MADE YOU THIS WAY?
SHF
HUFF

STAY WITH ME.
HE'S LOSING BLOOD TOO FAST. HIS TEMPERATURE IS DROPPING

RATTLE
LOOKS LIKE A COUPLE OF RIBS ON HIS LEFT SIDE ARE FRACTURED TOO.
MAYBE THE BROKEN RIBS ARE PUTTING PRESSURE ON HIS LUNGS.

THIS AREA IS LOOKING REALLY BAD.
I HOPE THE BULLET DIDN'T DAMAGE THE LUNGS.
TO HANDLE THIS KIND OF OPERATION, WE HAVE TO TAKE HIM TO ST. MARTIN HOSPITAL.

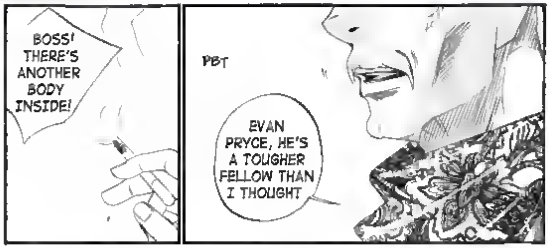
I HOPE HE CAN HANG ON UNTIL WE GET THERE. THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO
IT'S IN THE HANDS OF THE HEAVENS NOW
YOU PEOPLE! I WILL NOT FORGIVE YOU IF YOU LET HIM DIE!

WHAT-EVER IT IS!
DO YOUR BEST TO KEEP HIM ALIVE
PRYCE!
EVAN PRYCE!

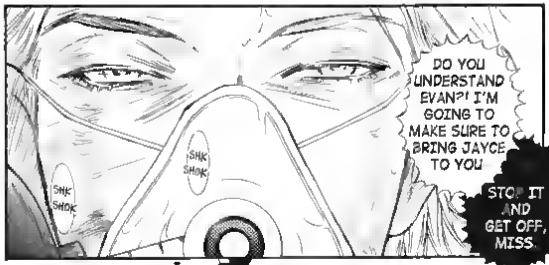
YOU MUST LIVE.
YOU'RE SOMEONE WHO SURVIVED A CLASH WITH THE MAFIA! YOU CAN'T GO LIKE THIS! THIS IS TOO ABSURD!!

THINK OF JAYCE!
JAYCE...
YEAH, I HAVE TO TELL HIM. I HAVE TO SURVIVE AND SAY IT TO HIM MYSELF.
YOU ARE BEING A HINDRANCE, MISS
DOING THIS JUST WASTES MORE TIME.

WHOA-! THERE'S A BULLET HOLE RIGHT NEXT TO HIS HEAD -- LOOKS LIKE HEART FAILURE, HUH?
LOOKS LIKE YOU WON'T HAVE TO DEAL WITH A BORING TRIAL, OLD MAN.

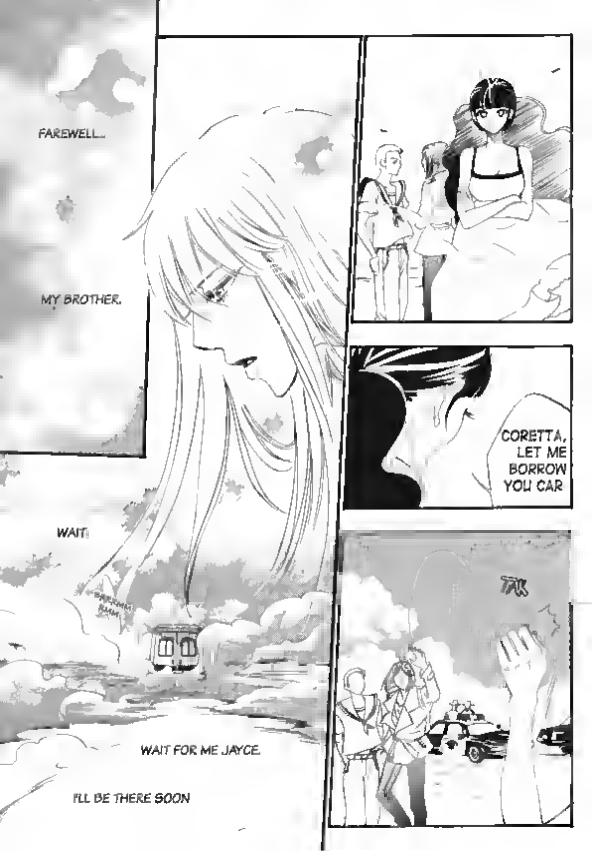

BOSS! THERE'S ANOTHER BODY INSIDE!
PBT
EVAN PRYCE, HE'S A TOUGHER FELLOW THAN I THOUGHT

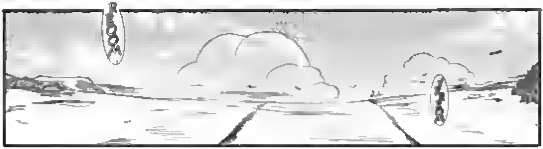
I TRIED TO PAY HIM BACK THE SAME WAY FOR THE THINGS HE DID TO ERIC.

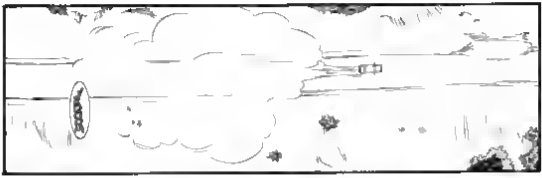

SHK SHOK
SHK SHOK
DO YOU UNDERSTAND EVAN?! I'M GOING TO MAKE SURE TO BRING JAYCE TO YOU
STOP IT AND GET OFF, MISS.

CRUSH HIS FACE, PULL OUT HIS TEETH ONE BY ONE!
SLASH HIS ALREADY BROKEN NECK, AS IF ALL THOSE THINGS WEREN'T ENOUGH...

I WAS PLANNING TO ACT THAT PLAN OUT WILLINGLY AND WHOLE-HEARTEDLY
HIS EYES... WERE WIDE OPEN IN FEAR, LIKE THEY WERE GOING TO POP OUT.
THE BLOOD THAT RAN DOWN MY ARM AND DRIPPED DOWN THE BARREL OF THE GUN...
I REALIZED...
THAT I SHOULDN'T DIRTY MY HANDS ANYMORE.
I MEAN I COULDN'T GO MEET HIM COVERED IN BLOOD
...RIGHT ERIC?
SMIRK
YEAH YOU DID GOOD
"LIFE'S TOO SHORT EVEN TO JUST DO WHAT MAKES YOU HAPPY."
YEAH IT'S TOO SHORT EVEN TO JUST DO WHAT MAKES YOU HAPPY.
"FAREWELL EVAN"
FAREWELL.


FAREWELL...
MY BROTHER.
WAIT!
WAIT FOR ME JAYCE.
I'LL BE THERE SOON
CORETTA, LET ME BORROW YOU CAR
TAK


SWOOSH


SWOOSH

NO! YOU CAN'T END LIKE THIS!
DAMN IT!

G-GUARD
THIS CONDITION IS GETTING WORSE.
SWIG
SWIG
HOLD ON! HANG ON A LITTLE LONGER!
SWIG
SWIG
HOW UNLUCKY THIS GUY... I DON'T THINK HE'LL MAKE IT

IT FEELS AWFUL WHEN A PATIENT DIES IN THE MIDDLE OF BEING TRANSPORTED.
SHK SHOK
SHK SHOK
WHAT A SHAME. OUR LIVES ARE SO FRAGILE.
IT'S FINE! EVERYTHING WILL BE ALL RIGHT!
GET THE BAD THOUGHTS OUT OF YOUR HEAD ALREADY!
SHIT!
I'LL MAKE SURE I'LL TAKE REVENGE FOR THIS, PRYCE
ZOOOM
ZOOOM
SCRITCH
JAYCE!
CLINK CLINK CLINK
JAYCE!

JAYCE!
SPOOK
JAYCE!
POP
HUH?
MAYBE I JUST CAN'T SEE HIM BECAUSE HE'S GONE COMPLETELY INVISIBLE...
DOOM
WHIRL
NO~!!!
JAYCE!
POP
JAYCE!
WOOSH
JAYCE!

JAYCE!!
I C X V
THIS WAS THAT MORON'S ROOM.

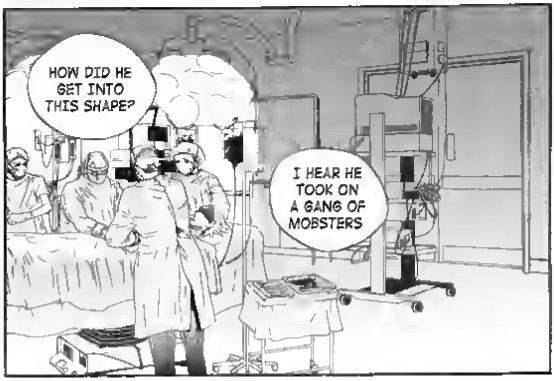
JAYCE...
JAYCE!
YOU HAVE TO GO SOMEWHERE WITH ME.
ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME? JAYCE?
LOOK AT ME.
SNAP OUT OF IT!

THIS IS ABOUT PRYCE!

YOUR EVAN!
WRECKLE
I'M TELLING YOU, EVAN PRYCE IS DYING!
HE'S DYING!!!

Y... YOU STUPID IDIOT!
HUFF
HUFF
WHICH HOSPITAL?
ST... MARTIN
SHF
ST... MARTIN...
WAIT, I'LL COME WITH...

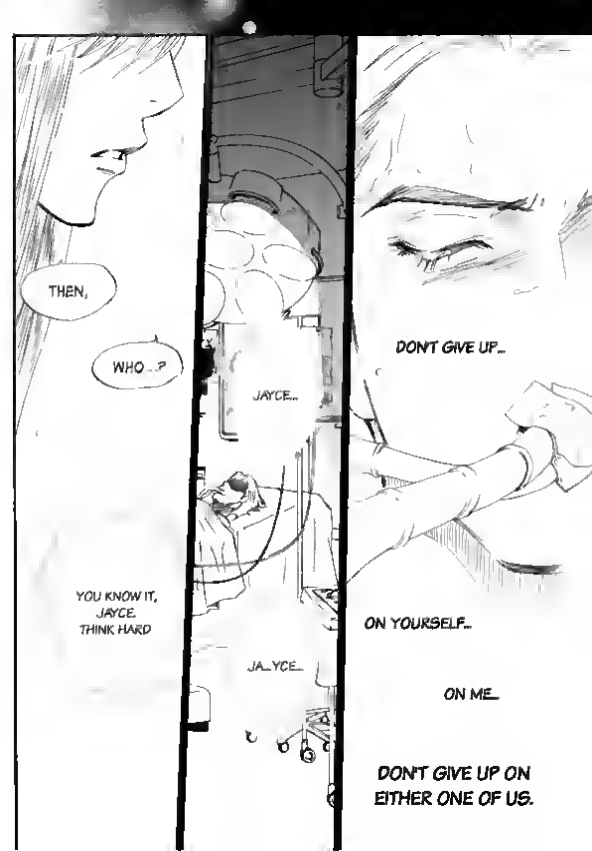
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
VITALS ARE WEAK.
IS THE BLOOD TRANSFUSION TAKING?
HE'S GOT THREE RIBS THAT ARE FRACTURED, DAMN IT!
IT'S NOT EASY TO FIND THE BULLET SHARDS BECAUSE HE'S BLEEDING TOO MUCH.


HOW DID HE GET INTO THIS SHAPE?
I HEAR HE TOOK ON A GANG OF MOBSTERS

WHISTLE THEN I GUESS HE'S LUCKY TO BE IN THIS SHAPE

I SEE THAT IRENE HAS KEPT HER PROMISE.
YEAH, SHE CAME TO GET ME.

HEY, JAYCE...
NO ONE, NO ONE'S CURSED YOU
THERE WAS NO SUCH THING AS A CURSE TO BEGIN WITH.
NO ONE...
CURSED...
ME?


THEN,
WHO...?
JAYCE...
YOU KNOW IT, JAYCE. THINK HARD
JA...YCE...
DON'T GIVE UP...
ON YOURSELF...
ON ME...
DON'T GIVE UP ON EITHER ONE OF US.

FIND THE WILL...
I WANT YOU TO HAVE THE WILL TO LIVE...
TRANCE
YOU'RE GONNA DEEPLY SINCERELY WANT IT YOU'RE GONNA WANT TO LIVE... HAPPILY WITH ME...
TRANCE
EVAN?
SLAM
SLAM
HAVE THE WILL... TO LIVE...!
EVAN!
STOP...
J...JAY...
STOP TALKING!

BEEP
BEEP
BEEP

E. Hae
3
Roureville

Roureville

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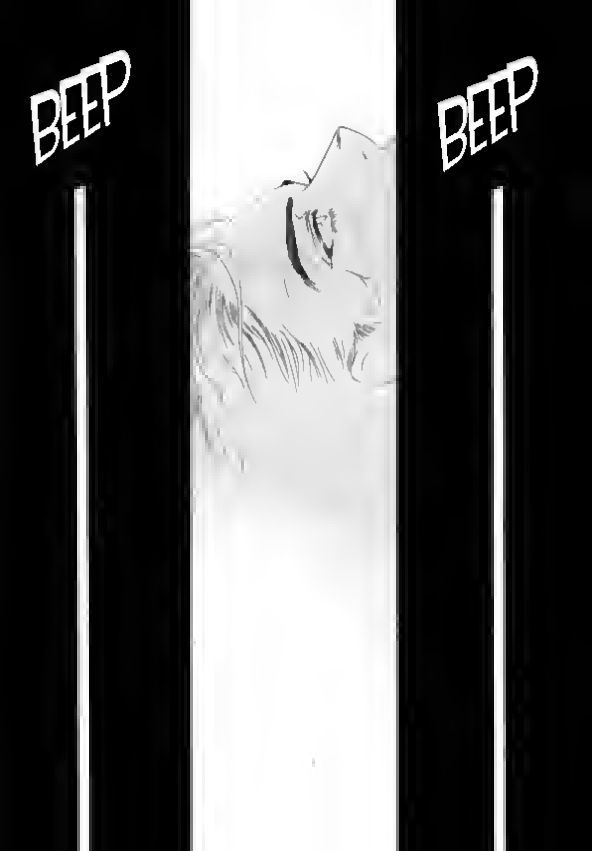
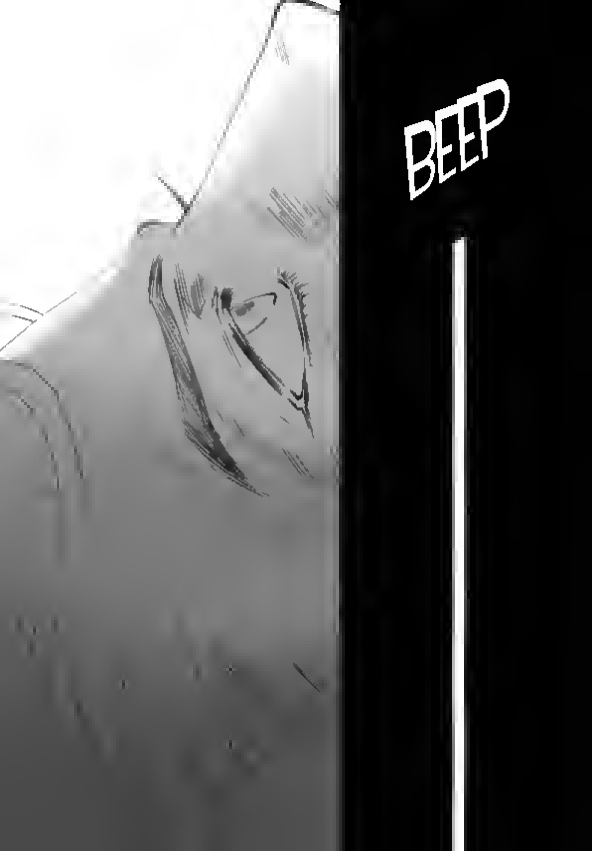
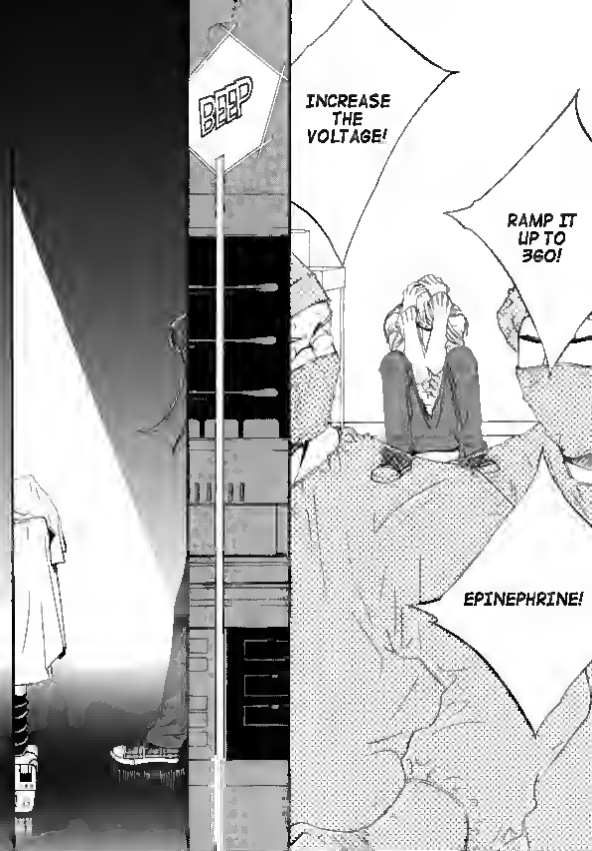
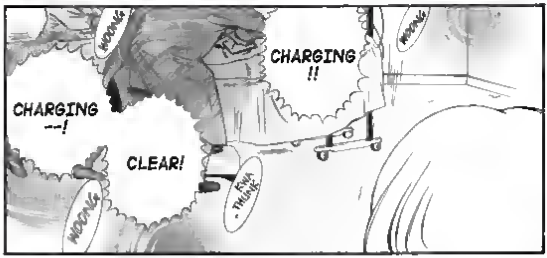
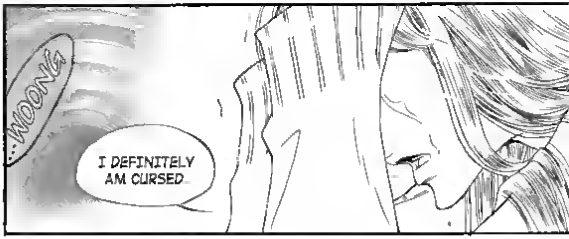

BEEP
BEEP

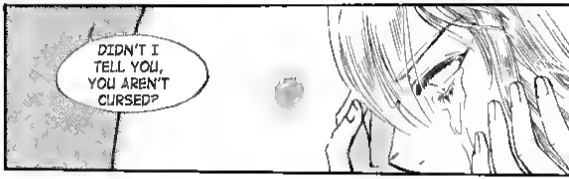

BEEP


BEEP
INCREASE THE VOLTAGE!
RAMP IT UP TO 360!
EPINEPHRINE!


WOOING
CHARGING !!
WOOING
CHARGING --!
CLEAR!
FWA THUNK
WOOING

WOOING
CLEAR!
WOOING
AGAIN!
FWA THUNK


...WOONG
I DEFINITELY AM CURSED


DIDN'T I TELL YOU, YOU AREN'T CURSED?

WHEN ARE YOU GONNA STOP SOBBING LIKE A LITTLE KID?
EVAN??

EV...
HEH
EVAN!
THIS IS WHAT THEY CALL AN OUT OF BODY EXPERIENCE.
SHE
AH...
.....

I GUESS OUR STATES ARE STILL DIFFERENT EVEN IF WE'RE BOTH
GHOSTS, WE STILL CAN'T TOUCH EACH OTHER PISH
.....
JAYCE
JAYCE HUMANS ARE BEINGS THAT LIVE IN THE PRESENT
NOTHING WILL CHANGE IF YOU CLING TO THE PAST FOREVER

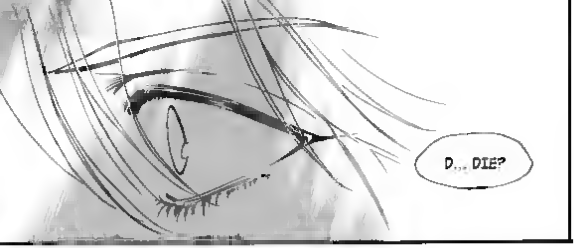
DO YOU UNDERSTAND? YOU CAN'T GO FORWARD OR BACKWARD THAT WAY
EVAN...
YOU REALLY AREN'T DEAD?
YOU WON'T DIE?
EVA (TRUNK)
BEEEEEEP
AGAIN! ONE MORE TIME!
PUMP IT UP TO 450!
BUT

CLEAR!
ZAP
FOR REAL?
NO, THANK
HUH?

ZAP
HUH, HOW?
FOR REAL?

HUFF
YOU IDIOT

I'LL NEVER DIE, BUT,
I MIGHT DIE IF YOU DON'T HOLD MY HAND


D... DIE?

IF YOU WANT TO SAVE ME,
HOLD MY HAND AND CALL MY NAME
EV— EVAN?

I'M GONNA BE THE SLEEPING BEAUTY UNTIL YOU WAKE ME UP.
EV...

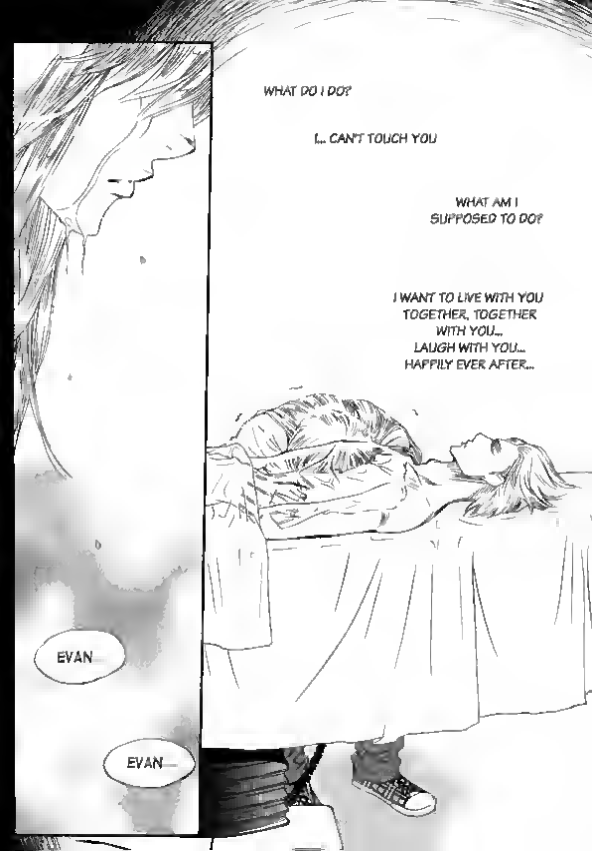
BEEP
DAMN IT WE TOOK OUT THE BULLET AND WERE ALMOST THERE
ARGH
WHERE DID WE GO WRONG?
I GUESS HIS LUCK ENDS HERE
FORMAN, WRAP IT UP, PLEASE.
LET'S HAVE A DRINK LATER ON
ALL RIGHT YOU GO ON AHEAD

WHAT HAPPENED? WHERE'S EVERYONE GOING?
WHAT ABOUT EVAN?
H... HEY!
TIME OF DEATH... LET'S SEE IT'S BEEN OVER FOUR MINUTES SINCE HE STOPPED BREATHING SO...

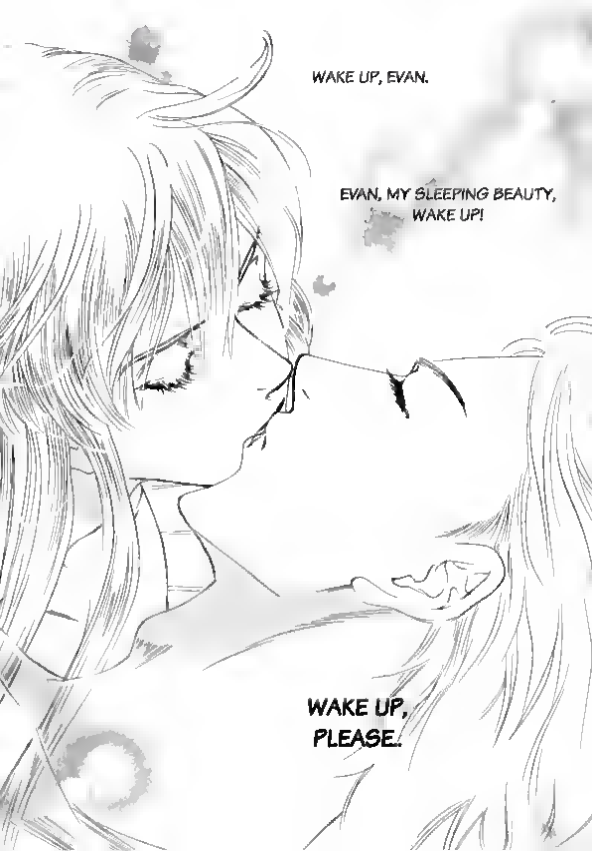
THIS IS USELESS!
THESE PEOPLE CAN'T HEAR ME!

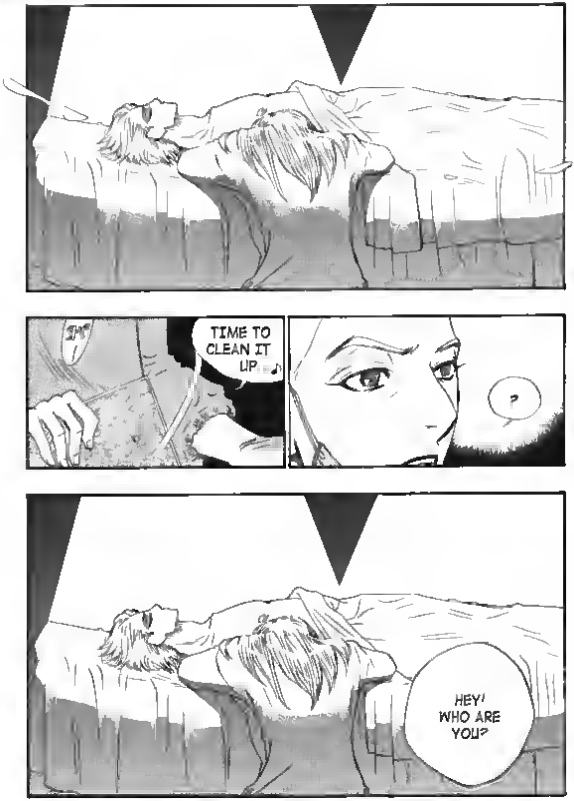
EVAN
EVAN, GET UP
WAKE UP! YOU TOLD ME TO HOLD YOUR HAND AND CALL YOUR NAME!
.....

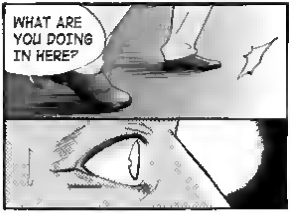
YOUR HAND
YEAH. I HAVE TO HOLD HIS HAND AND CALL HIS NAME

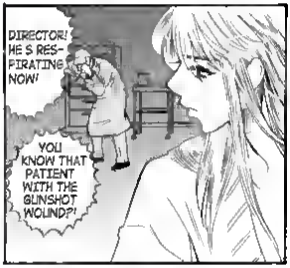

WHAT DO I DO?
I... CAN'T TOUCH YOU
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?
I WANT TO LIVE WITH YOU TOGETHER, TOGETHER WITH YOU... LAUGH WITH YOU... HAPPILY EVER AFTER...
EVAN...
EVAN...

WAKE UP!
WAKE UP! EVAN..
Rub
Rub
WE'RE NOT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE FOREST,
AND I'M NOT A PRINCE, BUT

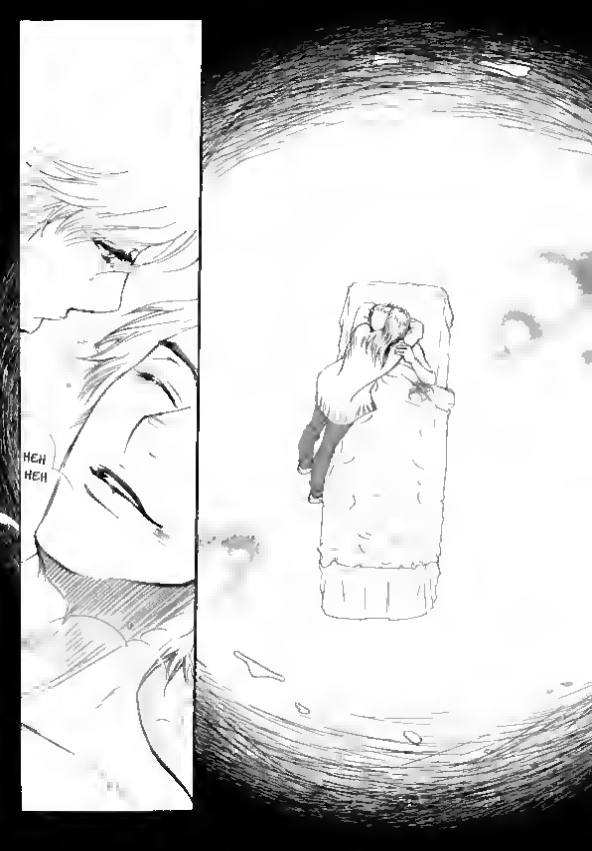

WAKE UP, EVAN.
EVAN, MY SLEEPING BEAUTY, WAKE UP!
WAKE UP, PLEASE.


TIME TO CLEAN IT UP ♪
?
HEY! WHO ARE YOU?

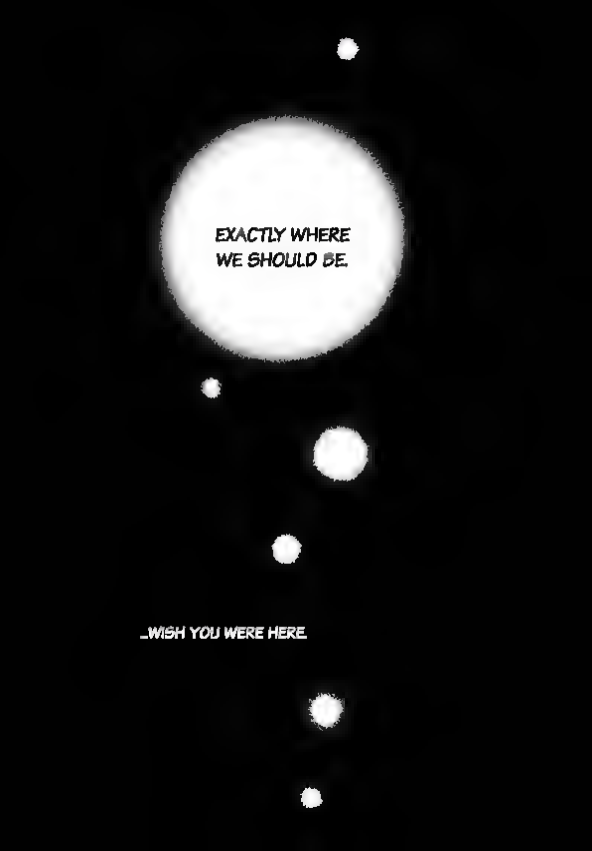

WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN HERE?


DIRECTOR! HE'S RESPIRATING NOW!
YOU KNOW THAT PATIENT WITH THE GUNSHOT WOUND?!

I'M NOT JOKING!


HEH
HEH

I.
I PRAYED WITH
ALL MY MIGHT.
I PRAYED TO HAVE YOU
RIGHT HERE BY MY SIDE.
YOU AND ME.
SITTING SIDE BY SIDE.


EXACTLY WHERE
WE SHOULD BE.
_WISH YOU WERE HERE.

Roureville

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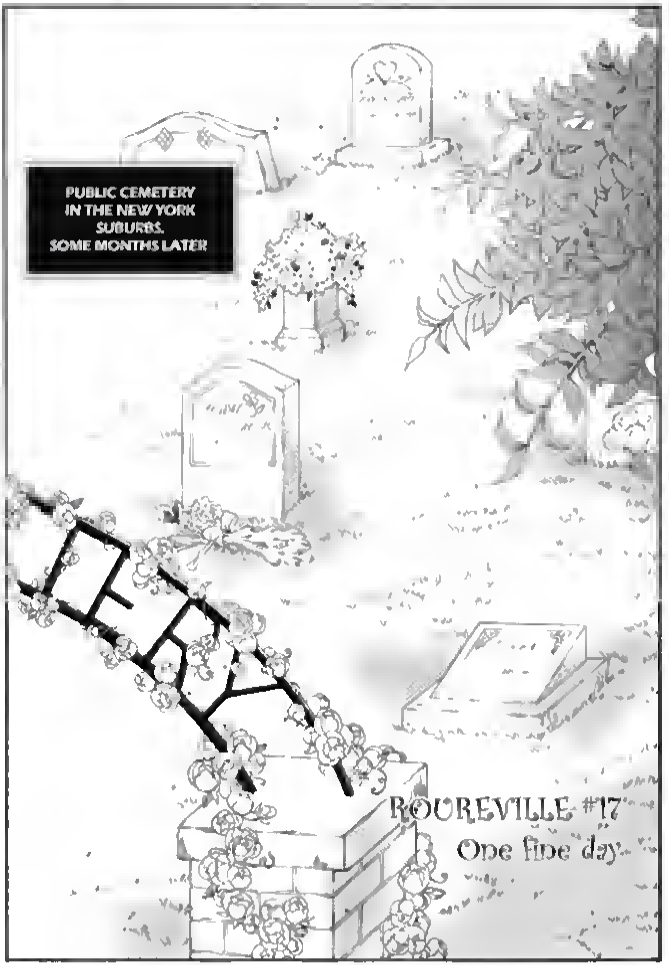
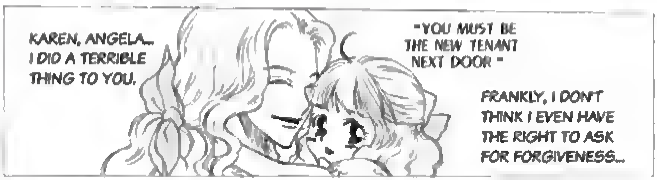


ROUREVILLE #17

One fine day

KAREN HEAVEN
ANGELA HEAVEN


KAREN, ANGELA... I DID A TERRIBLE THING TO YOU.
"YOU MUST BE THE NEW TENANT NEXT DOOR."
FRANKLY, I DON'T THINK I EVEN HAVE THE RIGHT TO ASK FOR FORGIVENESS...

THIS COMES LATE, BUT PLEASE ACCEPT MY APOLOGIES.

I'VE BEEN...
THINKING ABOUT THIS, EVAN...

BUT I STILL DON'T THINK I GET IT
YOU SAID THAT THERE WAS NO CURSE FROM THE BEGINNING, RIGHT?
I WAS WONDERING WHAT YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT
THEN, WHY . WHY IS MY BODY SO...
THAT'S OF COURSE BECAUSE SOMEONE WANTED IT TO BE THAT WAY.
THEN, IT WAS A CURSE?
PEOPLE WHO WERE CLOSE TO YOU KEPT DYING ONE BY ONE
AND IT ALL FELT LIKE IT WAS YOUR FAULT.
YOU WANTED NOTHING MORE BUT TO END YOUR LIFE, BUT MJ LEFT HER DYING WISH FOR YOU TO CONTINUE ON

SO, YOU SAID TO YOURSELF, "IF I'M NOT EVEN ALLOWED TO KILL MYSELF...
I WISH I COULD JUST GRADUALLY BECOME INVISIBLE AND THEN FINALLY DISAPPEAR COMPLETELY!"
WISH...
.....
UHM
YOU'RE SAYING IT HAPPENED BECAUSE I WISHED FOR IT?
ONLY YOU CAN DEAL YOURSELF A FATAL BLOW.

THE HURT THAT'S INFLICTED BY OTHERS FADE OR DISAPPEAR AS TIME PASSES.
BUT SELF-TORTURE INFLICTS THE MOST PROFOUND AND DEEP-ROOTED DAMAGES IT CAN EVEN THREATEN THE VERY EXISTENCE OF ONE'S SELF.
SO, ANY FOOL WOULD CALL IT QUITS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE STUPID ACT.
FOOL
BUT YOU WENT TO THE EXTREMES.
KOFF
THERE ARE MANY TYPES OF SELF-TORTURE..
LIKE GUILT TRIP, DEPRESSION,
RESENTMENT, DISCOURAGEMENT, SELF-DEPRECATION, ETC.
YOU CHOSE THE WORST ONE OF ALL.
...?
.....

SMO-OCH
SHHF
SELF-DENIAL.
NO MATTER HOW DREADFULLY TORTUROUS IT IS, TO ERASE EVEN YOUR OWN EXISTENCE. WHAT COULD BE MORE FOOLISH THAN THAT?
THAT'S THE KIND OF TERRIBLE THING YOU DID TO YOURSELF.

APOLOGIZE TO YOURSELF AND TREAT HIM LIKE A TREASURE FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE!
PAH
...ARE YOU AFRAID?

OF WHAT?
YOU THINK YOU LOSE WHOMEVER YOU LOVE.
IT'S ALRIGHT. DON'T' BE AFRAID.
AS YOUVE LOST SO MANY PEOPLE...

DON'T WORRY AND STAY WITH ME.

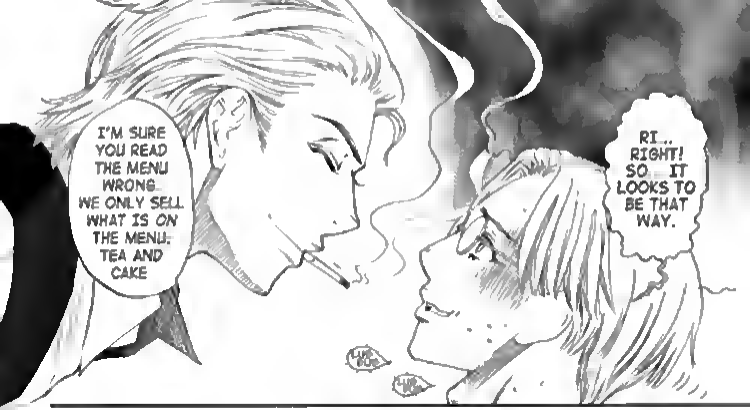
I'M A MAN WHO RETURNED ALIVE FROM HELL, AFTER ALL.

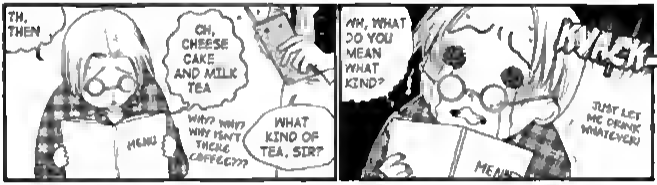
THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS ETERNITY.

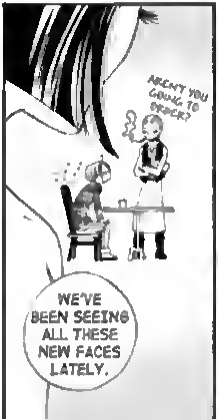
ROUREVILLE #18
My Own Private ROUREVILLE

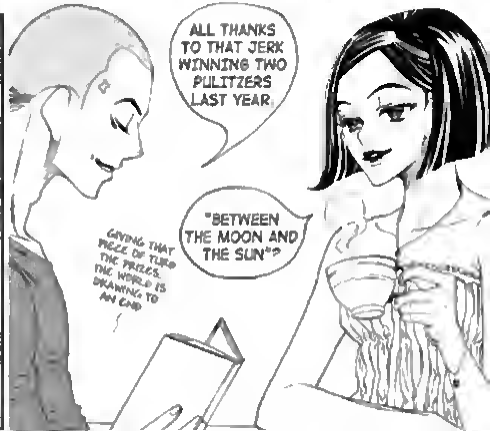
ROUREVILLE.
THREE YEARS LATER.

TEA N CAKE
AH... I'D LIKE A BLT.
I'M CRAVING SOME BEER AND SPAGHETTI TOO
I'LL HAVE WHAT THAT MAN OVER THERE IS HAVING.
SIR, YOU CAN ONLY ORDER WHAT'S ON THE MENU.
HRN?
BUT, THAT ONE AND THAT ONE TOO... THOSE AREN'T ON THE MENU, EITHER
WHY JUST ME...?


I'M SURE YOU READ THE MENU WRONG. WE ONLY SELL WHAT IS ON THE MENU: TEA AND CAKE
RI... RIGHT! SO... IT LOOKS TO BE THAT WAY.
HA HA...
HA HA...


TH, THEN
MENU
OH, CHEESE CAKE AND MILK TEA
WHY? WHY? WHY WON'T THEY'RE COFFEE???
WHAT KIND OF TEA, SIR?
AH, WHAT DO YOU MEAN WHAT KIND?
JUST LET ME DRINK WHATEVER!
MENU


AREN'T YOU GOING TO ORDER?
WE'VE BEEN SEEING ALL THESE NEW FACES LATELY.

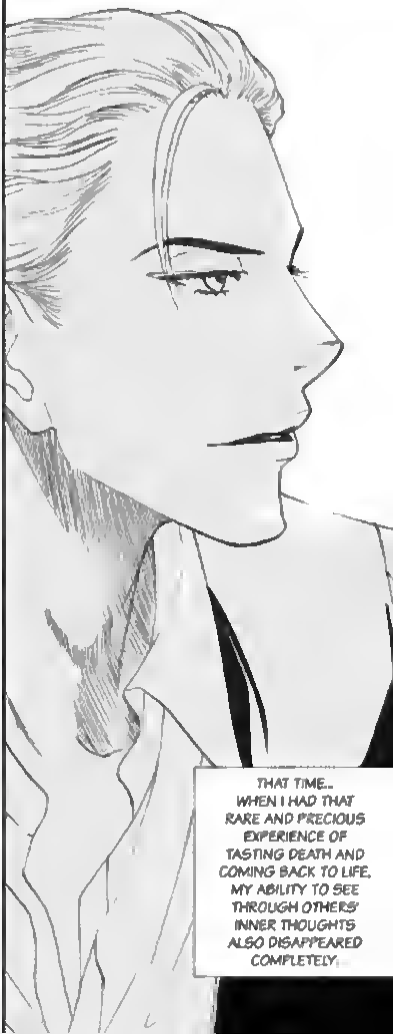

ALL THANKS TO THAT JERK WINNING TWO PULITZERS LAST YEAR.
"BETWEEN THE MOON AND THE SUN"?
GIVING THAT PIECE OF TURD THE PRIZE... THE WORLD IS DRAWING TO AN END

PULITZER PR.
BEAT REPORTING CATEGORY
NOVEL CATEGORY
BETWEEN THE MOON AND THE SUN
ALL THANKS TO HIM, ROUREVILLE'S NOW POPULAR ONLY AMONG DIMWITS.
THE TITLE IS SERIOUSLY CORNY TOO.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN DIMWITS?
ESCAPE. DEPARTURE. SELF-REALIZATION.
THE DIMWITS WHO FLEE THE CITY, CLAIMING THAT IT'S FOR SELF-REALIZATION.
ESCAPE. DEPARTURE. SELF-REALIZATION.
LIKE US?
.....
AHEM AHEM
IRENE, HOW'S YOUR BUSINESS?
OH!
SURPRISINGLY CLEO'S ACTUALLY REALLY SHARP SHE WAS SOLID BUSINESS SENSE!
THAT'S GOOD TO HEAR
YOU KNOW, CORETTA'S NEW BOOK SHE RECENTLY RELEASED? IT'S BEEN GETTING PRETTY GOOD REVIEWS, TOO.
WELL, NATURALLY. ANYWAY, DO SOMETHING WITH YOUR GUY
WHAT ABOUT JULES?
THAT SONOVA...! HE EVEN COUNTS THE NUMBER OF LEAVES ON A CABBAGE BEFORE SELLING IT!
PWAH
MY DARLING'S A LITTLE THOROUGH, ISN'T HE.

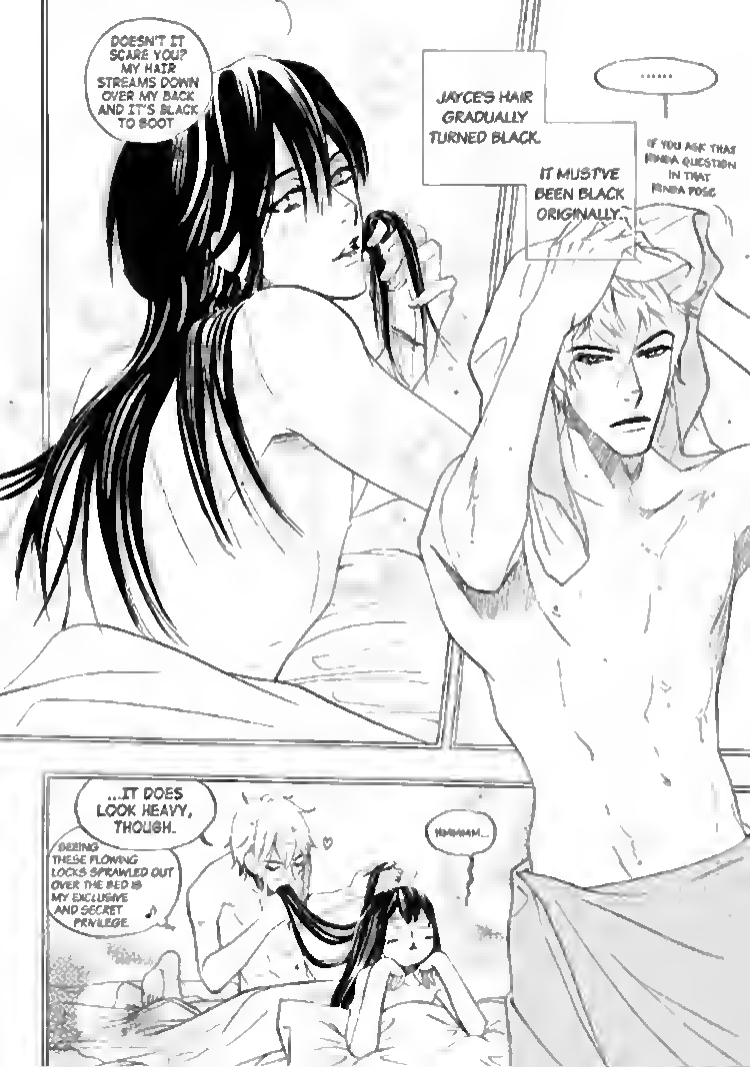
YOU'RE LAUGHING? HE'S A TOTAL CHEAPASS, I'M TELLING YOU!
SQUEAK
OVER HERE~.
I'LL TAKE A LEMONADE!

YOUR LEMONADE, SIR
OHH, THANKS!
SOMEONE GETS A LEMONADE. HOW COME I DON'T? HOW COME.
SOB SOB
BUT UH THE WAY YOU LIMP . LOOKS PRETTY AWKWARD, DR HOUSE.
HOO HOO HOO
PAH
WAH
HEY, DID YOU INSTALL YOURSELF A SATELLITE DISH OR SOMETHING WITH YOUR BOOK ROYALTY? HOW DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THIS ONE?
MY ACTING IS FLAWLESS! WHATRE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
GUESS HOW I FOUND OUT~
IT'S NOT THE SATELLITE DISH. IT'S ALL THANKS TO MY SPY. CHRIS FILLS ME IN ON YOUR LATEST COSPLAY COLLECTIONS, FATHER.

THERE'S SPAGHETTI?!
I DON'T KNOW ANY-THING!
I CAN NO LONGER TELL WHAT'S ON FATHER BROWN'S MIND.


THAT TIME... WHEN I HAD THAT RARE AND PRECIOUS EXPERIENCE OF TASTING DEATH AND COMING BACK TO LIFE, MY ABILITY TO SEE THROUGH OTHERS' INNER THOUGHTS ALSO DISAPPEARED COMPLETELY.

A LOT'S CHANGED.
NOW I OPEN MY EYES EVERY MORNING WITHOUT BEING NERVOUS OR ANGRY, BUT WITH GREAT EXPECTATIONS.
EVERYTHING TAKES ITS COURSE GENTLY AND AT THE PROPER PACE.
EVAN, YOU WANT SOME SPAGHETTI?
WANT A BITE?
I THINK I FINALLY UNDERSTAND WHAT IT MEANS TO SAY "EVERYTHING IS IN ITS PLACE."


DOESN'T IT SCARE YOU? MY HAIR STREAMS DOWN OVER MY BACK AND IT'S BLACK TO BOOT.
JAYCE'S HAIR GRADUALLY TURNED BLACK.
IT MUST'VE BEEN BLACK ORIGINALLY.
.....
IF YOU ASK THAT KINDA QUESTION IN THAT KINDA POSE
...IT DOES LOOK HEAVY, THOUGH.
BEEING THESE FLOWING LOCKS SPRAWLED OUT OVER THE BED IS MY EXCLUSIVE AND SECRET PRVILEGE.
HMMMM...

NEXT DAY
ODELL GAVE ME A HAIRCUT!
KHUKK!
MY EXCLUSIVE AND SECRET PRIVILEGE
CREW CUT
IT'S LIGHT!
KRASH
BY YEAH, THAT ALSO HAPPENED
WHAT, WHAT, WHAT?
NO SPAGHETTI? SHOULD I FEED YOU SOME SALAD?
.....
YOU DENSE IDIOT!
.....AH.
SEEING JAYCE REMINDS ME...
I THINK I'VE BEEN CLINGING TO MY DAUGHTER AND JAYCE FOR TOO LONG
SKIPPY NOW RUNS MR. JOHNSON'S CORN FARM TOGETHER WITH MS. IGGY--SECOND OLDEST BROTHER'S COUPLE.
AS SOON AS JAYCE REGAINED HIS HEALTH, OBREE JOHNSON SET OUT ON A TRIP AROUND THE WORLD AS IF HE HAD BEEN WAITING

I... EVEN UNTIL THREE YEARS AGO, I THOUGHT JAYCE WAS SOME AWFUL LIE THAT THE VILLAGERS MADE UP.
HMM... IS THAT RIGHT?
PAH!
WE'RE THE SAME AGE!
NOT TRUE.
SKIPPY, 10
JAYCE 10
AND THEN, I SAW A GUY MY AGE-- NOT A GHOST-- FROM THAT HAUNTED HOUSE! I ALMOST PASSED OUT.
IF I KNEW, I WOULDN'T HAVE TIPPED THE PEOPLE AT NEW YORK TIMES
HEH
WHAT A STUPID THING TO PULL...
YOU WERE THE ONE WHO CALLED THEM?!!!
WHY WOULD YOU RAT ON US IF YOU DON'T EVEN BELIEVE IN GHOSTS?!
'CAUSE YOU KEPT DITCHING ME AND MY BROTHER, SO WHO KNEW THEY'D REALLY COME COVER OUR VILLAGE?
MORON!
MY BAD SISTER-IN-LAW
IF SKIPPY HADN'T MADE THAT CALL, I WOULDN'T BE HERE RIGHT NOW.
NO, THIS VERY MOMENT WOULDN'T HAVE EXISTED.

IRENE AND CLEO GOT TOGETHER AND STARTED A LINGERIE COMPANY.
SHE CURRENTLY COMMUTES TO AND FROM NEW YORK AND ROUREVILLE, AND SHE LETS HER HUSBAND JULES TAKE CARE OF THE SHOP AND THEIR 5-MONTH-OLD DAUGHTER IVY.
LEON!
BARF
FATHER BROWN SPENDS BUSY DAYS, HELPING NEWCOMERS SETTLE IN ROUREVILLE AND MORE.
CHRIS STILL LIVES IN THE CHAPEL AND WORKS AS A FILM MUSIC COMPOSER.

* AKA "THE PROFESSIONAL"

WHAT?
CRUNCH
CORETTA MADE A COMEBACK TO THE ART CIRCLE AND HAS BEEN INTRODUCING CONTROVERSIAL PAINTINGS.
WHAT ABOUT MY WORK IS ABSTRUSE?
AFTER I QUIT THE TIMES, I OPENED A CAFE WITH ODELL WHILE WRITING IN MY SPARE TIME.
LUCKILY FOR US ODELL IS GREAT AT DEALING IN BUSINESS, SO WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO AVOID RUNNING A DEFICIT.
ONCE A WHILE, WE RECEIVE POSTCARDS FROM ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD. IT SEEMS MR. JOHNSON IS DOING WELL.
OUR DAYS ARE FULL OF STIR AND CLAMOR AND UPROAR...
EVERYTHING IS IN ITS PLACE.
AND ME--

I AM WHERE
I'M SUPPOSED TO BE.

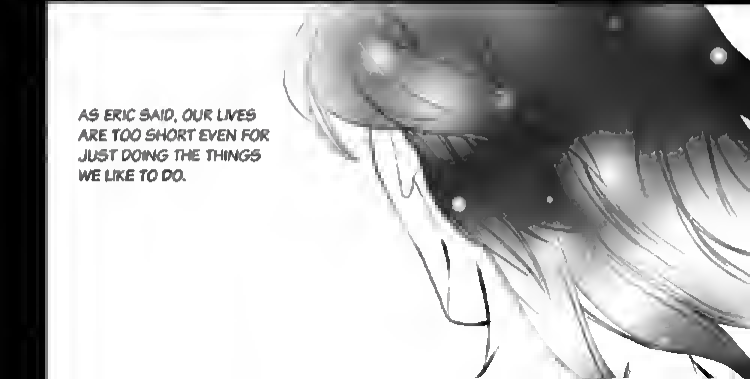
TROUBLEVILLE #19
Sunflower

THE MEMENTOES ERIC LEFT BEHIND BORE MUCH FRUIT.
THE VAST SUNFLOWER FIELD THAT SURROUNDS JAY'S HOUSE HAS BECOME A LANDMARK IN THE AREA. MANY HAVE BEEN COMING TO VISIT.
ERIC
I WAS WONDERING WHERE YOU'D DISAPPEARED TO IN THE MIDDLE OF A NAP.

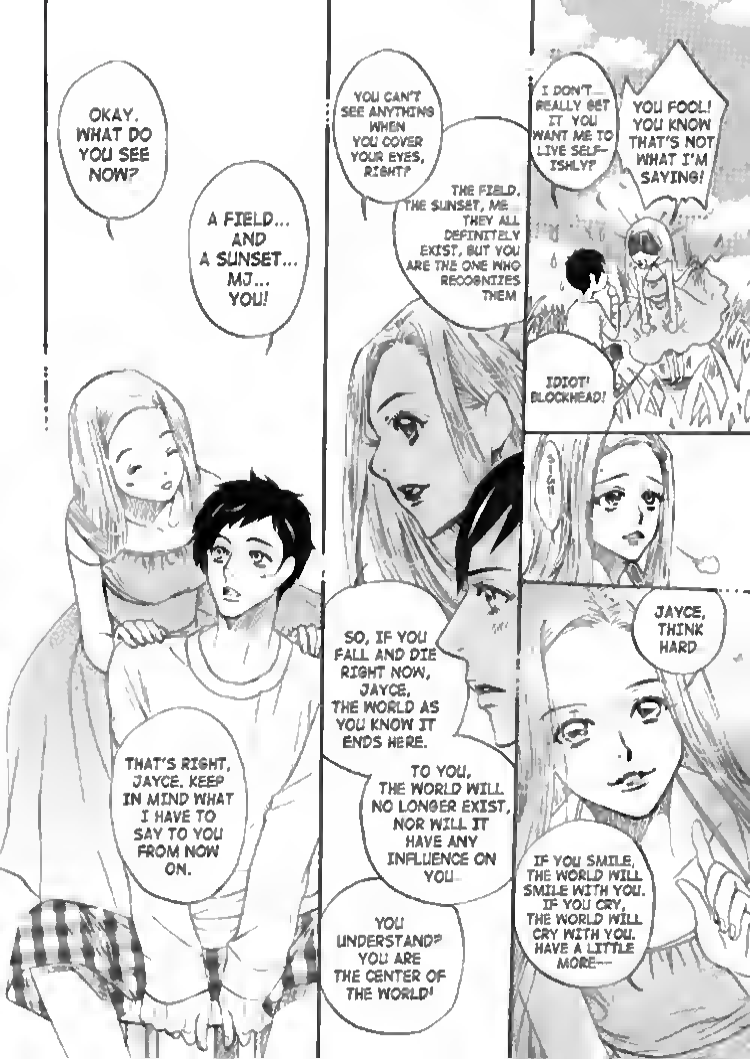
I THOUGHT I'D ORGANIZE ERIC'S BELONGINGS 'CAUSE IT'S BEEN ALMOST THREE YEARS SINCE.
A PICTURE OF LOUIS · THAT ERIC I THOUGHT HE HAD THROWN OUT ALL OF LOUIS' PICTURES
WHY DO YOU LOOK LIKE THAT?
BECAUSE YOU SAID HE LOOKED LIKE ME
?
YOU SAID LOUISE LOOKED LIKE ME.
HE DOES, DON'T YOU THINK?
WHAT ON EARTH ABOUT HIM LOOKS LIKE ME???
ERIC HAD A PRETTY EMOTIONLESS FACE ON THE DAY OF LOUIS' FUNERAL.

HE DIDN'T CRY OR LOOK SAD.
ERIC HAD... BURIED A PART OF HIM ALONG WITH HIS BELOVED, I'M SURE.
HE HAD A BITTERSWEET YET RELIEVED LOOK ON HIS FACE
FOR THE FIRST TIME, I FELT ENVIOUS OF HIM.
I THOUGHT HOW IF I WERE GIVEN THE SAME CHANCE I'D JUMP INTO IT WITH ALL I'VE GOT.

BUT NO MATTER HOW I WAITED, IT DIDN'T LOOK LIKE I'D GET THE DAMN CHANCE.
"THE CAUSE IS INSIGNIFICANT AND UNIMPORTANT."
FATHER BROWN WAS RIGHT.
CHANCES ARE ALWAYS POURING DOWN ON US LIKE SHOOTING STARS. ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS PICK ANY ONE OF THEM.
OUR "PRESENT" IS MADE OF THE COMBINATION OF A GREAT MANY CAUSES AND EFFECTS.
WE JUST NEED TO TAKE A STEP FORWARD...
IN A DIRECTION DIFFERENT FROM THE ONES WE USUALLY TAKE.
IN A DIRECTION OUR HEARTS WISH TO TAKE.


AS ERIC SAID, OUR LIVES ARE TOO SHORT EVEN FOR JUST DOING THE THINGS WE LIKE TO DO.

JAYCE, CLOSE YOUR EYES.
MJ?
YOU SEE SOMETHING, DON'T YOU, JAYCE?
NOTHING
I SEE NOTHING, MJ.


OKAY. WHAT DO YOU SEE NOW?
A FIELD... AND A SUNSET... MJ... YOU!
THAT'S RIGHT, JAYCE. KEEP IN MIND WHAT I HAVE TO SAY TO YOU FROM NOW ON.
YOU CAN'T SEE ANYTHING WHEN YOU COVER YOUR EYES, RIGHT?
THE FIELD, THE SUNSET, ME... THEY ALL DEFINITELY EXIST. BUT YOU ARE THE ONE WHO RECOGNIZES THEM
SO, IF YOU FALL AND DIE RIGHT NOW, JAYCE, THE WORLD AS YOU KNOW IT ENDS HERE.
TO YOU, THE WORLD WILL NO LONGER EXIST, NOR WILL IT HAVE ANY INFLUENCE ON YOU.
YOU UNDERSTAND? YOU ARE THE CENTER OF THE WORLD!
I DON'T... REALLY GET IT. YOU WANT ME TO LIVE SELFISHLY?
YOU FOOL! YOU KNOW THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M SAYING!
IDIOT! BLOCKHEAD!
SIGH!
JAYCE, THINK HARD
IF YOU SMILE, THE WORLD WILL SMILE WITH YOU. IF YOU CRY, THE WORLD WILL CRY WITH YOU. HAVE A LITTLE MORE--

ESTEEM FOR YOURSELF
LOVE YOURSELF
A LITTLE MORE.
SHHF
...YEAH.
I THINK I KIND OF UNDERSTAND NOW, MJ

WHRL
EEP!
JAYCE?
UNDER-STAND WHAT?
EVAN
EVAN
EVAN!

"THANK YOU FOR STAYING WITH ME."

PERHAPS...

WE WERE JUST LONELY.

PERHAPS THE HANDS THAT
REACH OUT TOWARD EACH OTHER...
THE COMFORTING WARMTH
THAT STAYS BY YOUR SIDE...
WOULD HAVE BEEN ENOUGH.

THE WARMTH WOULD
MELT THE FROZEN HEARTS
AND WARM AND CONSOLE
EVERY OUNCE OF THE HURT SOULS

THE WORLD IS
PEACEFUL.
AND EVERYTHING IS
IN ITS PLACE.